Table of Contents

1. Briefing
2. Prologue
3. Chapter 1
4. Chapter 2
5. Chapter 3
6. Chapter 4
7. Chapter 5
8. Chapter 6
9. Chapter 7
10. Chapter 8
11. Chapter 9
12. Chapter 10
13. Chapter 11
14. Chapter 12
15. Chapter 13
16. Chapter 14
17. Chapter 15
18. Chapter 16
19. Chapter 17
20. Chapter 18
21. Chapter 19
22. Chapter 20
23. Chapter 21
24. Chapter 22
25. Chapter 23
26. Chapter 24
27. Chapter 25
28. Chapter 26
29. Chapter 27
30. Chapter 28
31. Chapter 29
32. Chapter 30
33. Chapter 31
34. Chapter 32

35. Chapter 33
36. Chapter 34
37. Chapter 35
38. Chapter 36
39. Chapter 37
40. Chapter 38
41. Chapter 39
42. Chapter 40
43. Chapter 41
44. Chapter 42
45. Chapter 43
46. Chapter 44
47. Chapter 45
48. Chapter 46
49. Chapter 47
50. Chapter 48
51. Chapter 49
52. Chapter 50
53. Chapter 51
54. Chapter 52
55. Chapter 53
56. Clan information
57. Chapter 54
58. Chapter 55
59. Chapter 56
60. Chapter 57
61. Chapter 58
62. Chapter 59
63. Chapter 60
64. Epilogue
65. Credits...

Briefing

Your Destiny is completed and has been for a long time. However, when able, the author of the story is correcting typos and improving the content.

Your Destiny was a new roleplay experiment which took your typical wattpaders and had them each create a cat. Their cats were gradually thrown into this story, as they entered. You can call it an interactive story basically. They could participate with others to accomplish goals in the story, good and evil. The Roleplay quickly became a community within the Warrior's community. And hopefully, you too, will join that community!

I don't own Warriors that's why this is a interactive fanfiction. But it doesn't have any of her characters just her concept.

These were the previous rules for the Roleplay that participants had to abide to...
- Don't drop off Wattpad after you enter a cat. **Commitment** is a big thing guys.
- Read the story.
- You can only "own" or "oversee" the amount of cats you can handle.
- **Don't copy the type of Roleplay** this is. In my knowledge, it is very original for Wattpad. **If you are interested in making one like this, contact me**. But trust me, this has been a ton of work. It will be very hard you are not an older and more experienced writer.
- I've dedicated a lot of my time into this and I expect the same respect I give to you.

Enjoy the trilogy, Your Destiny, Your Legacy and Your Fate. May you walk in the good graces of LightClan and join the wonderful community that has been built.

Prologue

Allegiances

Survivors:

Horsetail- an older brown medicine cat with yellow eyes. From Skyclan.

Redpaw- a ginger tom brother to Raspykit.

Berrykit- a ginger tom that follows Horsetail everywhere.

Rouges:

Tide- brown tom with black and grey stripes, with amber eyes.

Lies- black furred she cat with white legs and paws and crimson eyes.

Kittypets:

Sarah- a Carmel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Jumper- a lean cream tom with long legs.

Happy- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. She's a little silly.

Quinn- Happy's brother. Also a cream furred cat with brown eyes.

The intense flames and the flakes of ash still devoured the forest. The smoke plumes devoured the breathing air, leaving cats struggling to stand. Redpaw was caught in the middle.

"Help! Please.. someone!" He croaked on his own words before coughing perfusivly. He looked around the hollow that was once his

camp and shuddered, the other cats were no where to be seen. He hoped they had escaped as he looked around frantically himself when he heard a mewl. *Oh no...*

Redpaw darted over to the nursery to see a tiny tuft of fur inching away from the fire. He couldn't recognize the kit's fur color for it was drowned in ash, he quickly picked the kit up by the scruff and looked toward the camp's exits.

The usual exit was blocked by a flaming log. He examined the size and decided he had to try. Redpaw gripped the kit tightly in his jaws and ran straight was the flaming exit. As he reached the piece of bark he leaped into air and soared over the flames. His belly became instantly seined as he did but when he hit the ground, he kept running.

When dawn arose he had finally reached the outskirts that were not thick with fire. Redpaw set the kit on the stone then looked down from the tall peak.

The four Clans' territory was engulfed in smoke and he couldn't see any tiny pelts of other cats. After Redpaw had seen and felt enough grief he turned over to the kit and started stroking his tongue across his ash strike pelt. When he had taken some of the ash off in displeasure he noticed it was his younger brother, Berrykit.

Berrykit was only two moons old so he wasn't strong enough to follow the clan out. But it kept Redpaw wondering where his mother was now.

The vivid memory of last night stuck him, quickly. Pain of loss, brought him to his paws. Redpaw remembered the alarmed screams and shouts for help but it had never happened before, they had no idea on what to do. Redpaw's mother Crimsonpatch must've taken off with their other siblings unknowingly forgetting Berrykit.

"Berrykit... are you alright?" Redpaw whispered in the ginger tom's ear. The kit shifted in his dirty pelt, yearning for its ginger color to return.

"Where's mom?" He rasped keeping his eyes shut tightly. Berrykit

huddled close to Redpaw as a brisk gust of wind barreled past them.

"There was a fire. ShadowClan is gone. Mother is with StarClan," Redpaw explained with a stiff voice. He knew he would not cry, nor dwell on it, for Berrykit's sake.

"Where...do we go?" Berrykit whimpered. His tiny brother snuggled soundly into Redpaw's pelt.

"Come with me, children.." Another voice said from behind them. Redpaw turned around to face a bigger and elder tom with yellow eyes.

"You're.."

"I'm Horsetail, I came to the last gathering. Remember what I said Redpaw. I told the clans I kept seeing this vision," he said looking over the territories.

"You knew this would happen... and," Redpaw was interrupted again.

"I tried to warn the clans. I saw the destruction of my Clan, SkyClan. I could not bear another."

"Then why did this happen?" Redpaw asked with desperation. He wanted to become deputy, have a mate, live his life proving loyalty to Shadowclan. *How can I live without Shadowclan? What will I do?*

"Your leaders would not listen. I told them to survive we had to live and venture into other lands and start new Clans. Their pride in their separate Clans was more important to them then survival and they paid the price. Only you, your brother and a few other cats may have survived. But Starclan... meant it to be this way," Horsetail said with words if wisdom. Berrykit stood up and stomped over to Horsetail.

"What about my mom? Or Shad... Ow clan?" He croaked out with teary eyes.

"We must start a new order, Clan and new families," Horsetail explained as he looked down at Berrykit. He didn't shed a smile but

looked sternly into the kit's eyes, as if he was challenging him.

"And StarClan?" Redpaw asked looking up toward the sky.

"There is no more, StarClan."

Chapter 1

Survivors:

Horsetail- an older brown tabby furred medicine cat with yellow eyes. 89 moons old.

Redflight- a ginger tabby furred tom with Amber eyes. 16 moons.

Raspypaw- a ginger tabby furred tom with Amber eyes. His name was changed to Raspypaw for his raspy voice. 7 moons.

Rouges:
Tide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes. 11 moons.

Lies- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. 24 moons.

Skorge- jet black furred Tom with Crimson yellow. 13 moons.

Kittypets:
Sarah- a Carmel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. 18 moons.

Jumper- a lean cream tom with long legs. 22 moons.

Happy- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. 7 moons.

Quinn- Happy's brother from a different litter. A Tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye. 17 moons.

It was dawn as Tide stepped out of his den and began to stretch for the day of hunting ahead. As he stepped into the city streets the familiar scents of dogs hit is nose. He scowled and remembered that the only way to his usual hunting grounds in the city were always infested with mutts and other rogue cats.

Tide turned his eyes to the other direction in which the suburbs and the park were near. "Might as well," Tide huffed under his breath trotting toward the park.

After he reached the park it was sun high and blazing. He decided to avoid the park's meadow and go straight for shade of the trees. Once he settled under he protection of a young oak, he started to groom himself and inspected the new land.

The scent was mingled with dogs, humans, and cats. When he smelled the scent of a Clan cat, he couldn't help but cringe. Tide watched as a small ginger tom trotted across the grass toward the woods, from the city, carrying a squirrel.

"Hey you! Who said you owned this land! Get off, fast!" Tide growled and started to stalk toward the tom. The ginger tom looked around four moons younger than Tide. The young tom shuttered but held his ground.

Instead of replying the tom winked and darted away toward the trees. Tide felt pride swell within him and he raced after the tiny tom. *How dare he disregard me...*

After crossing into the woods Tide was overcome with scents of all kinds and pure adrenaline and thrill. He was so caught up in chasing the tom that he didn't notice how far in the forest he was. He stopped in realization as he peered around at his surrounding. The park trees had changed from normal oaks and maples to tall pines and different scents. There was a uncomfortableness of many earthy scents and sounds that overwhelmed Tide. He had never traveled this far from the city, until then.

Where did he go? Tide wondered trying to detect the scent trail again. The heavy breeze rushed through the trees washing over the scent trail the young ginger tom had left.

"What cat are you if you can't follow scents?" A voice croaked from above and Tide felt his eyes go upward. On one of the pine tree's branches there perched was the young ginger tom grinning.

"You're fresh trash! I would've caught you if you hadn't.."

"Been more clever than you?" The young ginger tom snickered in a crackle. The voice was brittle and cracked as if was broken.

Before Tide could reply a large gust of wind swooped through the trees and the thin branch the young tom was perched on, snapped. He fell onto the ground littered with nettles of the pines and Tide let his lips form a grin.

"The forest and the city is mine. Stay off and get lost," Tide demanded as he stalked away.

"But wait! We need you, Horsetail said!"

"I'm a loner, *kit*! Now get away," Tide grunted with annoyance thick in his voice. The young tom didn't flinch though.

"No. You belong with other cats, in a clan. You can come with me and never have to dig through more trash!"

The proposal froze Tide and he turned his head back to the tom. The cat's eyes were large with hope and anxiousness and Tide finally sighed.

"Only for a day," he replied and the young tom grinned in relief. "What's your name?"

"Raspypaw," he croaked. He further explained how his name was named after his broken voice, which was earned in a fire long ago.

"What's your name?" Raspypaw chimed in.

"It's Tide," he said in a low voice not able to explain the past meaning of his name. It was none of the kit's business.

"Well we're almost there. I hope you don't made the forest, because it's where we live," Raspypaw added on before Tide had a sudden gut feeling, as if a cat were watching them.

Then claws pierced his pelt.

Chapter 2

Survivors:

Horsetail- an older brown tabby furred medicine cat with yellow eyes. 89 moons old.

Redflight- a ginger tabby furred tom with amber eyes. 16 moons.

Raspypaw- a lean ginger tabby furred tom with Amber eyes. His name was changed to Raspypaw for his raspy voice. 7 moons.

Rouges:

Tide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes. 11 moons.

Lies- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. 24 moons.

Skorge- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow. 13 moons.

Icy- white she cat with blue eyes. 15 moons.

Kittypets:

Sarah- a Carmel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. 18 moons.

Jumper- a lean cream tom with long legs. 22 moons.

Happy- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. 7 moons.

Quinn- Happy's brother from a different litter. A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye. 17 moons.

Sky- a dark gray/blue she cat with sky blue eyes. 12 moons old.

Em- black furred she cat with amber/brown eyes. 13 moons.

Tide spun around and slashed his claws at the attacker but they struck first on his cheek. The black Tom cat hit him again, and prepared to bite down. Ride ducked and rolled out of the way, unwilling to get involved.

"Get off of him!" Raspypaw demanded as he backed away. The attacker looked at him with his crimson yellow eyes than shook off his jet black pelt as he strut away.

"Get out of here kit, before I make you," the tom growled and Raspypaw ran away without hesitation, leaving Tide to fend for himself. The tom then turned her crimson eyes back to Tide and let out a growl and a snicker.

"You don't remember me, do you?" The cat questioned with a fury in his tone. Tide quickly got to his paws and looked him over.

"How would I know a street rat like you?" Tide snickered back with annoyance. He noticed the tom's scent was from the city, so he must've followed him.

"Back last Winter. You led the dogs right to us. My litter mates died because of you!" He screamed in fury. Tide just blinked and refocused his thoughts but remembered no such thing.

"I did not. Get out of here," Tide growled in annoyance but the black furred tom held his ground. After glancing closer, he did recognize the Tom. He felt memories come upon him, but no such guilt.

It was last Winter when Tide was very young. Tide had already been sent away by his own litter after their mother died in a fight with a dog. There was an alley in the city where young cats below 15 moons took haven and made their own gang of rogues. Tide at that time was looking to join one being only 7 moons. The groups would later leave the alley together when they turned 15 moons or they would disband.

When Tide came to the alley a bigger tom about fourteen moons

escorted him in to the young cats that were in charged and that's where Tide's memories drifted off and he started laughing.

"What's so funny?" The black furred rogue raged but Tide just laughed.

"They weren't your litter mates they were filthy kits you decided to be apart of. And I did them all justice. All rogues know groups are forbidden," Tide snickered and started to stroll away.

"Maybe that should change! At least you wouldn't be suck a piece of dog-dung!" The rogue growled and Tide turned back back on him.

"How old are you anyway, 8 moons?" Tide snickered again with the tom burst forward and pinned him to the ground swiftly.

"13 moons. And I'm Skorge, not kit," he sneered placing his claws near Tide's throat.

"Stop," a raspy voice said from a few lengths away. "You can both live. You don't have to fight anymore!"

"What are you talking about?" Skorge questioned turning right into Raspypaw.

"Clans. I was from one. And Horsetail was from one! They'll fix rogue battles and hunger for good!" Raspypaw pleaded as Tide once again rose to his feet.

"And where is this clan?" Skorge asked curiously as Raspypaw took a step back.

"In the forest. Where there's more prey than you can count," Raspypaw replied and Skorge looked at him than at me.

"Is this true?"

"I don't know. I haven't seen it," Tide retorted calmly. Skorge sat and looked back at Raspypaw.

"I'm bringing my sister back along with other cats. And we're going to join this clan," Skorge decided as he started to stalk away. When

Skorge was out of sight Tide started to walk away without a word to Raspypaw and he started to panic.

"Where are you going? I thought you would," Raspypaw stuttered until I cut him off.

"I don't know kit. It seems like your making this up. And I don't want to be apart of something with rogues like Skorge," Tide said before racing toward Skorge's scent which led back to the park. By the time Tide got back it was almost night and he shivered in an apprehensive state. He had to find shelter.

As he found his way to a Twoleg house he snuck into the fenced in grass and under their wooden platform where other old scents of cats had been and he dozed off with an empty stomach.

Instead of waking in the Twoleg's fenced in area he woke in a shimmery meadow that gleamed of many colors. He could tell it was not reality but a dream of some sort.

Instead of the usual dreams with dogs and other rogues chasing him, there was a beautiful she cat in the middle of the meadow. Her pelt was golden light the sun and her eyes were the purest blue Tide had ever seen. Tide parted his mouth to ask a question when the she cat cut him off with his answer.

"Sunlight. I'm Sunlight, leader of Lightclan. I have called you here because you are part of a prophecy," she explained calmly and Tide just blinked.

"What's Lightclan?" Tide asked as Sunlight walked toward him.

"It is the after-life for cats. It's where cats like you and I go when we die," she said and Tide narrowed his eyes in disbelief. He had never even told hat there was anything after death. He struggled to believe the she cat.

"If you are from Lightclan why did you come to me?" Tide asked still curious and knew not what to expect.

"You have a choice. You need to join the clan for many cats' futures lie in the balance. If not they will fall and rogues and kittypets will

continue to live lives without purpose," Sunlight declared as she began to become blur. Tide just sat in a daze when he woke with a jump. From that moment out, Tide was unsure of what he was going doing.

Chapter 3

Survivors:

Horsetail- a older brown tabby furred medicine cat with yellow eyes. 89 moons old.

Redflight- a ginger furred tabby tom with amber eyes. 16 moons.

Raspypaw- a lean ginger tabby tom with amber eyes. His name was changed to Raspypaw for his raspy voice. 7 moons.

Rouges:

Tide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes. 11 moons.

Lies- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. 24 moons.

Skorge- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow. 13 moons.

Icy- white furred she cat with blue eyes. 15 moons.

Kittypets:

Sarah- a Carmel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. 18 moons.

Jumper- a lean cream tom with long legs. 22 moons.

Happy- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. 7 moons.

Quinn- Happy's brother from a different litter. A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye. 17 moons.

Sky- a dark black/blue she cat with a dark stripe down her back. 12 moons old.

Em- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes. 13 moons.

Void- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes. 6 moons.

Em sat upon the window ledge glancing out at the trees beyond the iron rod fence. The squirrels scurried up and down the trees collecting acorns and seeds. She sighed and started to groom her jet black pelt when a clawing sound rattled against the glass screen door.

Em jumped down from her ledge. The pitter and patter of her paws echoed off the tiled floor of the den. Approaching the glass door, she slinked over to the glass window to see a familiar face.

"Sky! What are you.." Em began before she was cut off. Sky's barely audible words were trying to pass through the glass door.

"Come here, *now!"* Sky said heading back to her yard to the right of Em's.

Em's eyes followed Sky's dark fluffy tail as it retreated with her friend. Eventually, Em came to the conclusion that she had to go along with Sky's request.

The kittypet let out a mewl that sent creaks echoing through the hall. Finally Em's Twoleg made their way over to the door and slid it open. As soon as she could she bounded outside and onto the short grass. Em enjoyed the touch of the grass in between her toes. Nevertheless, she focused on the task at hand. Slipping past the bushes, Em made sure that the Twoleg couldn't see her. She crossed over to Sky's yard through a small break in the fence.

Reaching Sky's yard, she noticed the she cat held a distant position from the deck. As soon as Sky saw Em, she immediately addressed the issue.

"Em, there's a rogue under my deck," Sky whispered. Em's eyes grew wide with wonder.

"Is it dangerous?" Em asked anxiously. Sky slowly followed Em as

the two neared the deck and the scent became stronger.

"No, he's asleep," Sky whispered as they peered under the wooden deck. The rogue tom looked fairly normal and young. His pelt was a rich brown with darker stripes, and appeared thick from where they observed him.

"Excuse me. This isn't your yard, rogue," Sky hissed as the rogue rose its head. His gloomy eyes met theirs.

"Shut it, Kittypet. I'm leaving anyway," the rogue growled and Sky sat promptly looking satisfied with herself. Em just wondered.

"I'm sorry, Sky is being rude. We were just curious what you were doing under her deck," Em rephrased, trying to act mannerly. She recalled what Sky had told her when they first met. *Kittypets have to have manners when rogues don't.*

"That's what it is. Well I was sleeping until you woke me. I didn't make it home last night. But I'm leaving now," the tom replied making his way back toward the trees that Em watched everyday.

"Where are you going, rogue?" Em asked catching up with the cat. The rogue turned and narrowed his eyes at her suspiciously.

"You're awful curious for a Kittypet," he stated before continuing to walk.

"Well I'm not, or at least I don't want to be.. My name's Em and that's Sky. Where are you going?" Em repeated anxiously but Sky just rolled her eyes.

"To the woods, where I'm supposed to join some clan of some sort," he replied making Em's paws tingle with excitement.

"No way. I've always wanted to be apart of a clan! Do you think it'd be okay if I tagged along?" Em asked in the excitement of it all. Before the rogue could reply Sky burst past her and stopped her from going an further.

"Are you crazy? Going away with a *rogue* you just met?" Sky scowled and Em felt herself drink back when the rogue replied.

"Stop calling me that! My name is Tide," he cut off hastily. "If you two want to come, then I can't stop you but I will if you act like whiney Kittypets!"

Em swallowed and looked back at Sky who gave her a stern glare. Nevertheless, she turned her head and followed Tide.

"So where is this clan?" She asked as they past the fences. Sky was left clueless.

"In the forest, past the park. Another rogue is supposed to meet us there then we'll be hunting in the forest or something," Tide mumbled with a unenthusiastic tone.

"I've always wanted to be part of a clan I used to hear stories about. There's so much more.. *purpose*. Don't you think?" Em smiled at the thought. Tide shrugged and continued walking on.

"If you say so. I've never heard of one," Tide murmured. The rest of the journey became a silent walked past the Twoleg paths and dens until they came to a tree with strange Twoleg markings at the entrance of the park.

The scents and natural habitat was so overwhelming for Em that she barely noticed Tide was way far ahead of her already. When they finally reached a large tree where Tide said they would wait at Em felt like falling over in exhaustion. Although the park was not too far away, she had never walked longer.

As her eyelids began to drift, Tide rose to his feet, sending Em to attention. Another group of other cat scents drifted toward them. Em focused more on the shapes when she realized three of which were adult cats much bigger than Tide or her. But when they came into full few she shuttered at the jet black tom that caught her eyes for they knew each other all too well.

"Em, what are you doing here?" Skorge said in an all too series tone. Em stuttered for words when Tide filled the space.

"Wait you know her?" Tide questioned with the same level of seriousness in his tone. Skorge just barred his fangs and stalked

toward Tide.

"She's my sister you rat!" He yelled protectively and Em just sighed.

"I just followed him. I should be able to join a clan if you are," she argued but her brother was not convinced and almost unwavering.

"Get back to your twolegs before,"

"Before you what, Skorge? Just let her be. This clan is going to need a lot of cats," a she cat stated as she walked forward from the group of cars Skorge seemed to be leading there.

"You should be with your Twolegs too, Sarah," Skorge growled. Another she cat, that must've been the oldest, stepped forward.

"Skorge, back off before I send you back to the city. I brought Sarah here and she has more skills than a kit like you," the black furred she cat snapped before licking at her one white paw.

"Fine, Lies. Let every cat stay. Let's just get on with it, I'm starving," Skorge replied glaring at Tide, who avoided his glares.

Soon they made their way to the edge of the park and beginning of the woods wear Lies and Skorge led the way in followed by Sarah, Tide, and two other cats. Before Em stepped over she looked back and sighed sending one last hope that her Twolegs wouldn't miss her and that Sky would find the courage to follow her scent trail. Then she took her first steps per and followed the cats into the forest.

The beginning of the journey was such a daze for Em, that she began to drag behind and a white she cat caught on.

"New, huh?" The she cat asked with sparkling blue eyes. Em laughed and nodded.

"It's so much different than what I had imagined. For one, all the trees are much bigger," Em said and the she cat nodded.

"No I agree. By the way, I'm Icy. I was a rogue with your brother a while back," she explained and Em nodded with a smile.

"After we were old enough to be given to other Twolegs, Skorge always promised he would never be given to one. I didn't know there was much more to life than that, but then other cars told me about the clans and.. I'm here," Em explained automatically. Skorge came to visit each moon but he never wanted Em out on the streets.

"Well, I'm prepared. Prepared to finally have food that isn't nasty rats or garbage," Icy replied looking forward. Eventually after many paw steps, they came to a small clearing where Skorge and Tide began arguing.

"Where is that kit?" Skorge growled and Tide shrugged but also showed anxiety on his face.

"What if he made the whole thing up?" A Kittypet tom named, Jumper, asked sending the whole group into panic.

"Are you telling me we came out here for nothing?" Lies snarled at Skorge and he shrunk back with a hiss.

"How was I supposed to know if he was lying or not?" Skorge defended but Lies and Icy were furious.

"None of us have had food in two days, are you telling me we're going to stare in these woods?" Icy hissed. Tide just sighed as the other continued to fight.

"We don't need him to make a clan. We could make our own," Em proposed but no one really paid attention except for Tide. He only exchanged a somber expression with her.

"I knew it was too good to be true. Once a rogue, always a rogue," Tide murmured right before a howl split the air, and a cat dropped from the trees.

"Silence, all of you. Is this how you wish to form a clan?" An old brown tom asked from the edge of the trees.

"Who are you?" Skorge began but the elder tom walked forward to were them were whisker to whisker.

"You need to learn to be silent or lose that tongue of yours," the

elder cat snapped. The group remained silent.

"I am Horsetail, medicine cat of old clans that used to preside far from here. This mountain range you are about to enter, was home to another group of clans. When I was only a young warrior, it was burned to the ground, not by fire, but by the cats that claimed the territories. They were reckless, mean and lost sight of the warrior code. And for that they diminished. I survived so that I might one day restore the clans in this land untouched by the Twolegs," Horsetail explained slowly and deeply as the cats sat in silence.

"You all will be the first warriors of the new clan and together rebuild what was lost by your ancestors. But this will not be so if you dwell on selfish needs before the good of the group. Come with me if you promise to uphold the warrior code and live a life of honor."

And Em, with no hesitation, was the first to follow.

Chapter 4

Survivors:

Horsetail- an older brown tabby medicine cat with yellow eyes. 89 moons old.

Redflight- a ginger tom brother to Raspypaw with amber eyes. 16 moons.

Raspypaw- a lean ginger tom with amber eyes. His name was changed to Raspypaw for his raspy voice. 7 moons.

Rouges:

Tide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes. 11 moons.

Lies- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. 24 moons.

Skorge- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow. 13 moons.

Icy- white furred she cat with blue eyes. 15 moons.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 16 moons old.

Vain- a gray tom with black stripes and bright yellow eyes. 6 moons.

Kittypets:

Sarah- a Carmel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. 18 moons.

Jumper- a lean cream tom with long legs. 22 moons.

Happy- a small cream she cat with brown eyes and black toes and legs. 7 moons.

Quinn- Happy's brother from a different litter. A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye. 17 moons.

Sky- a dark black/blue she cat with a dark stripe down her back. 12 moons old.

Em- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes. 13 moons.

Void- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes. 6 moons.

"Where are you taking us?" Lies questioned as the group of cats followed Horsetail.

"Silence," Horsetail repeated, making Lies grunt in annoyance. She had been shown so much respect in her life. She was always the oldest and smartest. Now, that Horsetail was disregarding her, it was frustrating.

They traveled into a thick region of the forest where cedars were densely clumped. The broken logs and weeds the cars had to maneuver themselves through the obstacles as Horsetail kept the lead, with no slow in pace.

By the time they entered a less dense area that appeared already settled in judged by the clear weeds and Horsetail's body language. The elder sniffed around and looked up to the trees where he scoffed and turned toward us.

"Raspypaw, why don't you give our new warriors some fresh-kill?" Horsetail said and a ruffle of leaves sending our eyes above. Before the cats could even focus on the canopy two brown clumps fell from the trees and thudded against the ground.

Icy investigated the squirrels with eagerness. Smelling the warmth that radiated off the fresh body was tantalizing. Before waiting for Horsetail's permission she dug her fangs into its pelt and tore out the fresh meat that bursted with flavor against her tongue. It wasn't long when Em and Skorge dug into the same squirrel and the others did to the next.

"Eat and rest. Then at Sun down, we shall travel," Horsetail announced then turning and crawling into a burrow that must've been his den. The young ginger tom, named Raspypaw, jumped down from the massive oak trees and landed on his paws gracefully.

"Where did you get these? They're delicious," Skorge asked with a mouthful of squirrel meat. Raspypaw chuckled as he strolled over.

"From the trees," he rasped looking up into the oak's green canopy. Raspypaw sighed in contempt before making his way over to a den.

"Wait Raspypaw, can you show me how to climb one of those?" Em asked full of energy. Raspypaw nodded when Skorge sat up and narrowed his eyes.

"I don't know why you'd want to climb trees when we can go catch a squirrel," Skorge mocked before walking off to the thicker forest followed by Sarah, Jumper, and Icy. Lies and Tide one other hand shared intimidating glares.

Raspypaw beckoned with his tail to go into the opposite direction. Before they entered the forest, he turned as if he had a change of thought.

"I'll teach you how to climb trees, then we'll show them how important it really is," Raspypaw whispered and Em nodded with excitement. She had never done anything like this and Raspypaw had never been around so many cats, before.

Raspypaw led her away from the camp, until they came to a massive tree with many outstretching branches that swished and curled out. Em had never seen a tree bigger and wider than a Twoleg house until then. But better yet it was as close to the ground as Em was. It appeared half in the ground and its branches did the same.

"This tree is called a Sycamore. Horsetail says they're the oldest and largest trees that live in the forest until you count the really tall oaks then," Raspypaw rambled on while Em started to creep toward the tree. Before Raspypaw had finished, Em found herself on the lowest branch and ready to climb upward.

"Hold on, you don't want to get hurt!" Raspypaw reminded as Em almost lost her footing, when jumping to the next one. She slowly nodded and stayed on the third branch as Raspypaw started to explain the basics.

"First thing to remember is to have your claws out and dig them into the tree each time you jump from one to another. That way if you lose your grip, your claws will hold you to stop a fall. And if you fall, you'll land on your feet so it's no problem," he said leaping toward the next branch that was a bit far away. To get there he hooked onto it with his claws and pulled himself up. Em somehow found her way, following him up the tree with ease and soon they reached the top.

"Wow this is amazing," Em whispered. She peered down at the ground that seemed so far away.

"We better go find the others. I know where they'll be hunting," Raspypaw said, leaping down to each lower branch. He eventually reached the ground gracefully.

Em slowly found her way the ground, slowly and carefully. They ran toward where the others scents were strongest. When they came close enough to hear them, Raspypaw glanced toward her with a mischievous grin and started to climb a tall oak. Em stopped and shivered at the size and the fact that there were no longer branches to leap onto. Raspypaw made it seem easy as he scurried up the tree like a squirrel and Em felt useless.

"Um, Raspypaw I'm going to head back," she stated loudly when she heard a rasp from above.

"Wait! You can't do it," Raspypaw shouted from above. Em shuddered and her claws slid out. She slowly dug her claws into the trunk, and moved up her legs. Her body trembled, violently, but she was determined and pushed through it. Suddenly Em swallowed and felt something come through her, as she continued and swiftly made it to the top. Raspypaw was awaiting her with a smile.

"Great job! You're going to be awesome at catching squirrels," he murmured before leaping to the next tree and beckoning her to

follow.

Soon they were above the other cats where they were trying to hunt for squirrels. Skorge stalked around already losing his temper while Sarah, Icy, and Jumper glanced around cluelessly.

"Where'd they go?" Skorge asked swinging his head from side to side. Em looked out from above and instead of seeing a squirrel she spotted a grey bundle of fur huddled near a bush trying to get away from the noisy cats. But before the rabbit could dash away Sarah smelled the scent and she darted toward the rabbit that was already on the run. Icy quickly followed Sarah and the new prey until they were out of view and their thundering paw steps drifted into the distance.

"Darn it, I'm not chasing after her," Jumper insisted when Skorge spun his head toward the tree they were watching from.

"Wait, I think I see one," Skorge whispered looking up the tree with narrowed eyes. Raspypaw and Em scooted against the branch trying to refrain from laughing at the two below.

Skorge started to claw at the tree but his efforts to climb were weak and not focused. Jumper on the other hand became focused and took many steps away before charging and leaping against the middle of the tree. His claws dug in firmly and then he started to climb swiftly up the tree until he came face to face with Raspypaw and frowned.

"Not you again," Jumper grunted and pulled himself up onto the branch.

"While *you* three were failing at hunting, Raspypaw taught me how to climb trees," Em snickered while Jumper looked back down at Skorge.

"No prey, just your sister," he retorted to Skorge. Then he gracefully landed on the ground and looked back toward where they came from. Once Em and Raspypaw climbed down from the oak there was a rustling in the bushes and Sarah trailed in with a rabbit in her jaws followed by Icy panting.

"Thought you all might be hungry," she said with a grin. Skorge licked his lips and trotted toward her.

"No, we have to take it back to camp," Raspypaw corrected glaring at them with disgusted eyes. The other cats just frowned. *That's odd...* Nevertheless, Sarah picked it up and they trailed back to camp.

When they did arrive back at camp there were many different scents and an unsettle. There were so many voices that sent Raspypaw running into camp and everyone followed.

"What's going on?" Skorge asked as six other cats sat in the camp talking and grooming their pelts as they glanced around anxiously. Em found her eyes drifting over the pelts and saw a dark one of a kind pelt that could only be one cat.

"Sky, what are you.." Em stuttered before the she cat raced to her paws at the sight of her friend.

"I wasn't about to let you go off with a random tom! I told the others in the area and they all wanted to come. I reminded them that we have Twolegs but they all came anyway," Sky explained gesturing her tail to the rest of the cats. As Em was about to ask the cats' names, Horsetail's howl broke over the crowd sending the cats into an attentive silence.

"We must leave before the full moon's high. If you are here to follow the warrior code then follow me."

Chapter 5

-Few moons before present time-

Dapplestone inspected her kill, a vole, and the picked it up in her teeth. It was a large vole, which was a bit more showy, considering her audience.

Two tiny kits hid in the brush behind their mother. They watched in wide eyed amazement at the large rodent Dapplestone had caught.

"Do you see, little ones? It's all about the element of surprise," Dapplestone spoke in a muffled voice and dropped the vole down in front of her tiny kits.

"Wow!" Her male kit, Vainkit, poked the vole with his tiny paw. Vainkit had light grey fur, and faint, darker gray markings on his forehead and back.

"Come here, Tulipkit," Dapplestone purred to her other kit, who was a pretty white color.

The female kit, Tulipkit, crept meekly over, rubbed against her mother's front legs, and examined the dead animal with distaste.

"We eat this?" Tulipkit whined, and Dapplestone sighed.

"No, not yet, my kits. But you will have to when you get bigger. I will not be able to feed you forever," Dapplestone said gently. Vainkit bent down on his front paws and wiggled his tail.

"I can't wait to hunt!" Vainkit cheered.
Dapplestone was about to say something about getting back to their camp in the clearing, where their Clan was gathered, when a loud voice sounded to the east. It was laughter. Twoleg laughter was

coming from the clearing. Dapplestone froze in shock and began to remember the horrible injuries they afflicted on her in the past.

"Momma, what was that?" Tulipkit squeaked and hid under her mother.
Dapplestone picked Vainkit and Tulipkit up by their scruff and ran toward the clearing as quickly as she could. The voices were becoming clearer, and the words the humans said chilled her blood.

"Stupid, mangy cats," a young, male, human voice spoke cruelly. Strange bangs where coming from the forest as well, and as she came closer, fellow cats ran past her, away from the camp, carrying kits and food.

Dapplestone found a secluded patch of wild flowers near the edge of the camp and put them down.

"Listen to me," she said sternly, "you are not to move from this spot until I return with your father. That's an order."

Vainkit and Tulipkit nodded, looking very scared. With strength Vainkit sat up and wrapped his tail around his sister protectively.

"We promise we won't get hurt," Vainkit replied before his mother bounded toward camp.

Neither of the kits had ever seen a human being before, and didn't know what to make of the strange scents and sounds. Dapplestone crept toward the camp and observed the situation from behind a log, looking for her mate anxiously.

Her mate, Thunderstar, was the leader of their clan, Skyclan. Dapplestone had never seen a more handsome tom before for his gray fur and black stripes were like no others. He was also very large for a tomcat and many moons older than she.

Twoleg boys were standing in the camp, kicking at cats and putting the nursery kits in a pillowcase.

One of the boys, a blonde with freckles and a ferret face, had a small stick that made a boom. It was a kind of Twoleg object that Dapplestone did not recognize. The stick plummeted small pebbles

at the cats that sent them to the ground in pools of blood. That must have been the bangs I heard before, she thought.

And then, she saw a sight that chilled her blood. A monstrous, gray tomcat lay in the middle of the camp, unmoving. He had black markings on his back.

"Thunderstar!" Dapplestone cried out. She jumped over the log and into the clearing.

She dodged a human's hand and ran at breakneck speed to her mate.

Thunderstar had round, red wounds all over his side, and a hole where his left eye should have been. The other stared into the distance, seeing nothing. Dapplestone felt numb, and her heart kept in her chest. *He should've woken with eight lives. It's been too long.* He was dead.

"Momma!" A little cry made her turn.
Tulipkit had followed her, and was now in the hands of the blonde boy. He had her by the scruff of the neck, and the human was shaking her around roughly.

"No!" Dapplestone hissed and dove at the boy's legs, but the cruel human just kicked her away. Hard. She flew through the air and hit the ground, where she could do nothing but blink the red spots out of her eyes. And watch as the brute of a Twoleg manhandled her daughter.

Meanwhile, Vainkit watched the scene from the edge of the camp opposite to his mother with shocked eyes.
What are they doing to Tulipkit? He wanted to help, to stop them. But he was just a tiny kit, and his father, the biggest cat he'd ever seen, wasn't moving.

Then the boy dropped his sister on the ground. Tulipkit fell slowly, like a feather, and bounced off of the ground when she made impact. Vainkit's ears were filled with a static, and he watched in shock as the creatures ran from the clearing. He watched his mother leave his father and run to Tulipkit, who wasn't moving.

Dapplestone ran to Tulipkit, and sniffed her delicately. Her little kit's back was caved in slightly, and she was breathing very quickly. Tulipkit's heartbeat was fast as well. Too fast. Dapplestone knew what was happening, knew that Tulipkit was too far gone to save. Too broken to heal. Dapplestone watched as her daughter's breathing stopped, and her little heart quit beating.

"Momma," Vainkit whimpered, and crept over to where his mother was standing.

"Don't look, Vainkit," she growled urgently, and Vainkit froze. He saw his sister, unmoving, on the ground.

"Momma, what's wrong with Tulipkit?" Vainkit felt a lump in his throat, and an itch in his eyes. His stomach dropped. Dapplestone looked at Vainkit and padded over to him.

"Your sister is dead, Vainkit," Dapplestone said as calmly as she could. She had to be steadfast and strong for them both. Grief would not help either of them.

"D-Dead?" Vainkit shivered, and looked at the ground. He didn't know what to do.

"Yes, Vainkit. The Two Legs killed her," Dapplestone wished she could lie, tell him everything was alright.

"W-Why were they here, Momma?" Vainkit closed his eyes and didn't move.

"They were looking for their Kittypets."

Vainkit looked up at his mother. She looked down at him. There was an unsaid agreement between them. An agreement of silence. Vainkit was too young to fully understand what was happening, but knew that they both had to be strong. For each other.

"We have to leave, Vainkit," Dapplestone picked Vainkit up by his scruff and carried him out of the camp and into the forest.

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting.

This chapter was written by my good friend CeRosette whose cats are Vain and Dapplestone in this story.

Chapter 6

Survivors:

Horsetail- an older brown tabby furred Tom with yellow eyes. He's a medicine cat. 89 moons old.

Redflight- a ginger tom tabby furred Tom with amber eyes. 16 moons.

Raspypaw- a lean ginger tabby furred tom with Amber eyes. His name was changed to Raspypaw for his raspy voice. 7 moons.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 16 moons.

Vain- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes. 6 moons.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. 22 moons.

Rouges:

Tide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes. 11 moons.

Lies- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. 24 moons.

Skorge- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow. 13 moons.

Icy- white furred she cat with blue eyes. 15 moons.

Sulfur- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes. 19 moons.

Kittypets:

Sarah- a Carmel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. 18 moons.

Jumper- a lean cream tom with long legs. 22 moons.

Happy- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. 7 moons.

Quinn- Happy's brother from a different litter. A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye. 15 moons.

Sky- a dark black/blue she cat with a dark stripe down her back. 12 moons old.

Em- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes. 13 moons.

Void- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes. 6 moons.

The group of cats then followed Horsetail north of the camp and uphill sparing no time even though exhaustion was evident.

Dapplestone watched as Vain talked to another black tom that was twice his age she watched Vain's eyes light with excitement. She knew this knew clan life was where they belonged and that the three moons of living as rogues had only assured her want to live by the warrior code.

"So what's your story?" A light brown she with white speckles asked. Dapplestone looked toward Vain and sighed.

"My son and I were in a clan once. Then Twolegs came and destroyed us and killed my mate along with my daughter," Dapplestone explained all at once sending the she cat's eyes wide.

"I'm so sorry. I can't imagine what Twolegs would do such a thing," the she cat replied. Dapplestone, at that point, picked up her Kittypet scent and sighed.

"It's over. All that matters now is the future. What's your name?" Dapplestone asked feeling as if she was already close to the she cat.

"Sarah. Tide told me your Dapplestone," she remarked. Dapplestone nodded with a smirk. The young tom she talked to earlier was quick with his words when he wanted to be.

"Yes. And that is my son, Vain, over there. And this is my friend

Frostycloud," Dapplestone nodded to both to Vain and the pure white she cat that was Frostycloud. Although Dapplestone loved her son, every time she saw him, she saw his father's cold body lying on the camp floor.

"How long will it take?" Dapplestone asked curiously.

"I have no idea. I just caught my first prey today," she said with a grin and Dapplestone nodded.

"What was it?" Frostycloud piped curiously with a huge smile.

"A rabbit," she replied a bit flattered at the sudden attention. Meanwhile, Vain began talking to other cats his age as they continued to walk through the thick undergrowth.

"You've never caught anything before?" Vain exclaimed glaring at the small black she cat named Void.

"No, my Twolegs barely let me outside. I wouldn't have gotten here If I hadn't had help," she snorted making Vain shift his paws at the thought of being near a Kittypet.

"In the clan, you'll catch prey everyday. It's one of the duties of being a Warrior. My big brother is a warrior and he told me all abou," before Raspypaw could finished Horsetail gave him a stern glare then he became silent. Vain felt uncomfortable at the silence so he quickly thought of more to speak about.

"I had a sister. But she died," Vain mumbled and Void's eyes widened in sympathy.

"I'm so sorry, that's horrible. I wish I still had my littermates but they were taken at a very young age. So was I," Void said with a gloom remembrance of the event. The Twolegs came over to the den that day and put herself and all her littermates in cages. Void's mother said not to panic but how could she not wen she may never see them again.

"So were mine," Raspypaw murmured as Skorge trotted over to where they were walking in the group.

"Will you three ever stop talking. My ears can't hear any prey because of how loud your talking!" Skorge sneered then trotted away. Vain narrowed his eyes but Raspypaw shrugged.

"Don't listen to him. Even if he did hear something. That doesn't mean he'd catch it," Raspypaw snickered when a cold blast came upon them as they exited the forest. Their paws stepped against smooth stone.

The cats all looked up to face a dark entrance to a cave up ahead, that was embedded in the mountains. Void raced forward in a jolt of excitement when Horsetail cornered her and glared.

"Wait for orders," he gritted trough his teeth and Void stumbled back with trembling paws. Vain gave her a shrug and she turned looked toward Raspypaw who had no reaction at all.

"Raspypaw, you'll stand guard. I want Icy, Skorge, Lies, Tide, Jumper, Sulfur, Dapplestone, Frostycloud, Sarah and Em to follow me. The rest of you wait here," Horsetail ordered disappearing into the shadows of the cave.

Icy looked at Sarah and Lies who both shared the same expression of confusion. Em was the first to enter and was delighted that she was even called to follow Horsetail into the cave. Skorge and Tide were the next to enter then the rest of them entered followed by Jumper and Sulfur, a gray long furred tom that only came a little while ago and hadn't said a word to anyone except Horsetail and Tide.

As they journeyed deeper in the cave the cooler and wetter it become. Icy found herself stepping in tiny puddles that followed the hollows in the cave floor. By the time they came to a stop her belly and down was dripping. Light slowly filled the cavern as the moon reached the high of the sky and light flooded in through cracks in the roof.

"You have all been chosen to lead the new clans may it be leader, deputy, mentor, or Queen. Tonight you will share a dreams with Lightclan, and in doing so everything will be explained. Set your head upon your paws and you will see," Horsetail explained doing

so himself and quickly falling into a sleep. Next, Frostycloud and Dapplestone did the same then Lies, Skorge, Em, Sarah, Icy, Sulfur and Tide.

With a jolt they all awoke in a dark meadow filled with many starry cats and indescribable colors. Icy rose to her feet in wonder when a golden tabby she cat stepped forward and walked toward them.

"Greetings, young cats. I am Sunlight leader of Lightclan and all past leaders of the clans. You have each been chosen by Horsetail to lead the clans, which is the only way for cats to live peacefully, in harmony and with a purpose. But beware with great power and responsibility, you will never have perfect lives and they will be numbered," Sunlight explained causing Icy to feel tremors.

"You shall create a safe haven for cats of all kind. Kittypet or Rogue, no more. You and your future clanmates will abide by the warrior code you shall create and Lightclan will guide. When each of you is ready to lead, you must come here in three moons to receive your warrior names, then Horsetail and I shall decide upon the first leader. Only if you have found the qualities of a leader will you be granted nine lives. Horsetail shall train each of you until you are ready to teach others," she continued eloquently, so much that Icy was prepared and honored at what she would have to face.

"But beware, where there is hate, there is Darkness. May you always follow the Light as long as you should live," Sunlight spoke before the meadow became blurry and the cats woke on the cold solid stone floor.

"Horsetail, what was," Skorge muttered when Horsetail silenced him with a flick of his tail.

"Before we can continue, we must get out of this cavern. Then give you proper names. No more rogue or Kittypet names," he demanded leading them out of the cave. Horsetail's pace was quicker then before and soon they were on the stone plateau lit with moonlight where the other sat, minds racing with questions. Lies frowned at the thought of being named anything else.

"Sarah, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to pledge

allegiance to Lightclan?" Horsetail questioned his eyes intimidating hers not minding the confused glares of the other cats.

"I...do."

"Then from this day forward until you earn your warrior name you will be known as Swiftpaw," he said quickly before moving onto Icy.

"Icy, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and pledge allegiance to Lightclan?"

"I do," Icy replied more confidently than Sarah did.

"Then from this day forward you shall be know as Icypaw," he said with a nod and continued the ceremony until everyone but Lies and Em had received new names. Skorge had become Spiderpaw, Sulfur had become Cinderpaw, Jumper had become Leapingpaw, Lies was Coldpaw, and Tide was now Darkpaw.

"Em, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and pledge allegiance to Lightclan," Horsetail spoke with the same effort he placed on the same passage.

"Then from this day forward you will be known as Featherpaw," Horsetail said making her smirk. *Do I look like a feather*? While she was wondering that, Horsetail wasted no time as he continued.

"Dapplestone and Frostycloud shall keep their status for they have both already earned their Warrior names. But they shall train as the rest of you," Horsetail explained before he jumped off the high stone he was perched on and looked down at the cats.

"Do you all promise to uphold the warrior code?" Horsetail questioned with a passion in his voice that made Raspypaw shiver.

"I do," was the scattered and unsure reply but nevertheless Horsetail continued.

"Then step forward Void," he ordered and the small black she cat stepped forward.

"Void from this day forward you shall be known as Voidpaw," he announced and she carried a flattered smile as she sat back into the crowed.

"Vain," he shouted and the young tom came forward boiling with excitement. "From this day forward you shall not be know as Vain, but Vulturepaw."

Vulturepaw narrowed his eyes but his excitement must have overcome the strange name he had received. After all the ceremonies were done, every cat except the warriors, had new names.

Quinn, a cream and black patched tom, became Patchedpaw. His sister Happy, a cream she cat, became Softpaw. And Horsetail stopped as in a train of thought.

"Sky... Doubt was in your voice earlier when you agreed. So now you shall repeat your pledge," Horsetail decided but the she at looked confused.

"Sky, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and pledge allegiance to Lightclan?" As the words slipped out Sky nodded her head strongly.

"I do, of course I do," she said with a lot of sureness now in her heart that this is where she belonged.

"Then Sky, you shall be known as Nightpaw. All of you shall go by your new names and train as apprentices until you have become the warrior's you were destined to be. This will be hard but It will teach you the meaning of Clan life and help you all to decide the future Warrior code," Horsetail declared before stepping down from the rock and heading back toward the clan.

Without a word, the torn, exhausted and new cats trailed back to the camp hoping that the promise of a new life would be fulfilled.

Hi everyone. I'm so glad I finally got everyone's new names in. The clan is coming together and plot is forming nicely.

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting.

Chapter 7

Allegiances
Clan Cats-

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown tabby fur Tom with yellow eyes. He's a medicine cat. 90 moons old.

Warriors:

Redflight- a ginger tabby furred tom with amber eyes. 17 moons.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 17 moons.

Frostycloud- a pure white she cats with blue eyes. 23 moons.

Apprentices:

Raspypaw- a lean ginger tabby furred tom with Amber eyes. 8 moons.

Darkpaw- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes. 12 moons.

Coldpaw- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. 26 moons.

Spiderpaw- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow. 14 moons.

Icypaw- white furred she cat with blue eyes. 16 moons.

Vulturepaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes. 7 moons.

Swiftpaw- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. 19 moons.

Leapingpaw- a lean cream tom with long legs. 23 moons.

Softpaw- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. 8 moons.

Patchedpaw- A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye. 18 moons.

Nightpaw- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. 13 moons.

Featherpaw- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes. 14 moons.

Voidpaw- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes. 7 moons.

Cinderpaw- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes. 20 moons.

Nightpaw didn't remember the trip back to camp or if she even had a dream. Waking up she heard a daze of voices discussing how Dapplestone and Frostycloud went hunting and would soon be back with breakfast.

"Sk-Nightpaw, are you awake?" Featherpaw asked with a whisper and Nightpaw rose her head an nodded.

"Sure, I'm still exhausted though. Yesterday was," Nightpaw began quietly before Featherpaw caught her off.

"Tough! But at the same time it was so much fun!" Featherpaw smiled thinking about the promises the strange Sunlight cat made to her and the ceremony of changing names. Even all the new cats was so overwhelming.

"That's good. What did you see in the cave?" Nightpaw asked with a hint of sourness. She felt separated and awkward being left out of that then being called out by Horsetail for no believing.

"Sky.. I mean... Nightpaw! You can't feel down because all the cat said was some weird leadership prophecy stuff that doesn't mean anything for sure. And if we work hard enough I guarantee we'll be strong enough to become the best warriors. Raspypaw told me this morning that we're already old enough," Featherpaw went on with

such excitement she had never felt before. To Nightpaw, she almost seemed like a new cat.

"Can you introduce me to the others? I didn't get to talk to them as much as you did," Nightpaw asked and Featherpaw nodded with ease and lead her out of the hollow hole made of sticks and out into the meadow called camp. The "dens" as Featherpaw called them were big and dug partially into the ground and built with coverings of thick cedar branches that kept the weather from bothering the cats.

The only den the cats were not allowed to sleep in was the den in the hollow of a tall oak tree was north eastern of the den they just came out of.

"It's the den that Horsetail always crawls back to," Spiderpaw informed them and Nightpaw narrowed her eyes trying to see a glimpse of the old tom that was so grouchy and elusive, it made the new cats worry.

"Don't be so disrespectful. Without him, we wouldn't have gotten out of that mutt invested city!" Coldpaw replied looking at the hollow with a deep respect already ingrained in her.

"All I know is that he hasn't explained or done anything except give us new names. That make no sense," Spiderpaw scowled and Nightpaw looked at the camp ground in silent agreement.

"No, they make perfect sense," Dapplestone said as she dropped a mouse in front of them. Spiderpaw and Featherpaw dug in, sharing as littermates usually do while Frostyclod nudged another mouse toward Nightpaw and Coldpaw.

"You were named Spiderpaw because our fur is black just like a Spider. And they're threatening creatures to Twolegs, just like you are," Frostycloud piped in making Spiderpaw's mouth form a small grin.

"And Featherpaw, it's because your tail is shaped like a feather and your step is as light as one. It has nothing to do with you actually being one," Dapplestone informed making Featherpaw nod her head

in agreement.

"I am not cold nor do I look cold," Coldpaw corrected and Dapplestone shrugged while Frostycloud grinned from ear to ear.

"We never said your names would be spot on. After all, Horsetail is a nut job. All medicine cats are..." Frostycloud murmured exchanging a knowing glance with Dapplestone.

"What's a medicine cat?" Nightpaw instantly asked at the strange term. Dapplestone gasped and stood.

"I forgot. You cats know nothing. A medicine cat is a cat in the clan that heals the others when they sustain injuries. They do it with herbs and they usually speak for Starcl... I mean Lightclan," Dapplestone replied as Nightpaw took her first bite with now full assurance. The mouse's meat was not as tame at the pebbles the Twolegs gave her yet it was juicy and filled with new flavor.

"Tell us more about the clans," Icypaw said as she came back into camp with Darkpaw and Raspypaw. They all looked like they had been rolling around in weeds an brush because their pelt were covered with bristles and tiny leaf fragments.

"Sure," Dapplestone replied as she got into a comfortable sitting position. Meanwhile the rest of the cats picked up on what she was going to speak about and they listened nearby.

"I was apart of a clan called Skyclan. We were separate from other clans but we lived just as great as the four main ones did. In a clan there's a leader, a deputy who will become the leader one day, a medicine cat, and warriors. Medicine cat heals while warriors protect and provide. She cats with kits or that are expecting kits are called Queens, they're responsible for raising the kits until they become apprentices," she explained until Frostycloud took over.

"I was not apart of Dapplestone's clan yet we lived the same way. We both lived in clans that followed StarClan, which is now called Lightclan, and the warrior code," Frostycloud said before looking around at the cats that were obviously eager to learn more. She glanced at Dapplestone and the she cat nodded reluctantly.

"We won't say anymore until we reach some of you how to hunt. Raspypaw you take Coldpaw and Icypaw. Frostycloud can take Cinderpaw, Spiderpaw, Nightpaw and Vulturepaw. As lastly, I'll take Patchedpaw, Softpaw, and Leapingpaw. Everyone else should stay here and you can learn from Horsetail how to make proper dens," Dapplestone ordered with a slight smirk toward the end. Vulturepaw grunted at his mother ordering him around and Voidpaw looked down sad that she couldn't go.

"Don't worry. The only reason she's keeping you behind is because she's got to teach the lesser Kittypets how it's done," Vulturepaw said with a smile and Voidpaw just smiled but said nothing else.

"Good luck," she called to him as they headed out of camp.

In reality Dapplestone did recognize her sons talents yet placed him in a different patrol because he was talented. While she needed to teach the others of the Clan life. She had specifically picked the cream furred kittypets because their light fur, and Patchedpaw's patches would allow Dapplestone to teach them hunting more efficiently. Also, she found the Kittypet's with less of an attitude.

Dapplestone's group did not discuss as she lead them toward an area of tall pines. There was little undergrowth so that it wouldn't disable them in anyway.

"So, first you need to get in a hunter's crouch with your chest low against the ground but not depending on the ground to hold you up," Dapplestone instructed as she viewed the cats.

Softpaw crouched down and hers was almost perfect except her tail was hanging up in the air. After Dapplestone fixed that she watche how Leapingpaw barely crouched do to his long legs and long tail.

"If you crouch lower, Leapingpaw you'll get more distance and power. All of you need to practice, so that when you do hunt you'll be able to catch the prey dead on," she said and the my all nodded in quiet determination.

"Why don't you show us how it's done then?" Patchedpaw challenged and Dapplestone narrowed her eyes.

"Alright then," she replied and started down the hill following the closest scent near them.

Dapplestone stuck to the ground and made her way to the scent careful not to make too much noise. Soon she was close enough to smell and see that it was a squirrel and a fat one at that. She narrowed her eyes and crouched down lowly, making sure to be patient.

As it was close enough in pouncing tame the squirrel glimpsed toward her and in that moment her back legs extended sending her fly toward the squirrel. She hooked her front claws in the fur then brought it to her jaws viscously until its legs went limp and its beat was no more.

"Now you try. Follow the scents you detect and take your time," she suggested sitting down against a tall pine tree and placing the heavy catch down. Vulturepaw loved squirrel.

"Hey.. it's nice that your teaching us this, since we're kittypets and all," Patchedpaw said quietly sitting next to Dapplestone.

"Just because your a Kittypet doesn't mean you can't learn how to hunt. It's no big deal," she assured and he blushed slyly making Dapplestone smirk. They sat there staring at each other for the next minute until Softpaw ran back up the hill with something in her jaws.

"I caught a mouse!" She said in a muffled voice and Patchedpaw looked at her with admiration.

"That's great," Patchedpaw praised before glancing slyly at Dapplestone.

"Why don't you to go take the prey back to camp and I'll wait for Leapingpaw," Dapplestone suggested an Softpaw happily trotted back to camp followed by her brother.

Meanwhile Frostycloud led Spiderpaw, Cinderpaw, Nightpaw and Vulturepaw set out north where there where denser Oaks and dense bushes settled. The prey was sure to be plentiful.

"If each of you can manage to catch a piece of prey, then we'll go back. Otherwise we'll be out here all night," Frostycloud snickered and started to sniff the many scents then he plunged into the bushes and disappeared. Spiderpaw, determined to catch prey, wasted no time and started to prowl toward a scent he picked out.

Vulturepaw followed Spiderpaw also set in catching a prey, but before Spiderpaw. He detected a mouse and veered right in his path almost to the mouse when a crack of a stick, behind him, sent the mouse away. Vulturepaw turned to see one of the she cats. She was older than Vulturepaw yet he was bigger and stronger than her, being a warrior. He scented that she was a Kittypet but it was dulled but her rare dark black and blue pelt that sent strange chills through his spine.

"Oh sorry. I just smelled the mouse and you kno," Nightpaw stuttered before Vulturepaw scowled and tried to find a new scent.

"I really am sorry. I didn't mean to intrude on your catch I'm just having trouble catching one," Nightpaw said again sill following him as he tried to retrace where the mouse had gone. He turned and was without prior thought of his words.

"Fine. Go get the mouse, if a Kittypet like you can even do that. I want a big fat squirrel anyway, at least someone more than myself can benefit from it!"
Vulturepaw scowled as he went toward the squirrel scent near a few trees away.

"Listen, Vulturepaw. I never wanted to be a Kittypet. I was born into it. But at the same time being a rogue is too harsh a way to live," Nightpaw defended and he rolled his eyes as he came upon the squirrel. Even though he was concentrating she was set on making the tom like her.

As Vulturepaw came near the squirrel he crouched down and immediately pounced but Nightpaw rammed into him sending him off course and into the ground. Both the cats narrowed their eyes and Vulturepaw came whisker to whisker with the she cat.

Then the most awkward thing happened. "You're adorable."

"What!"

"Nothing," she murmured realizing what she just said and they backed away quickly. Their glares continued for the next few seconds until a voice broke the silence.

"I just caught the biggest squirrel, guys!" Cinderpaw announced and Spiderpaw trailed in with a robin in his jaws. Vulturepaw growled and stormed straight up to Cinderpaw ignoring his anger toward Nightpaw.

"Give me my squirrel back, kittypet!" Vulturepaw ordered and Cinderpaw narrowed his eyes at the young cat. Although Vulturepaw was a lot younger than him his size was almost as big but Cinderpaw stood his ground.

"I'm not a Kittypet, *kit*," Cinderpaw sneered and puffed his fur out threateningly. Vulturepaw laughed and puffed his chest out also.

"You look like one with your pretty pelt and glittery eyes!" Vulturepaw snorted and Cinderpaw felt his claws tingle with annoyance. He was ready to take the tom right to the ground. But at the same time Nightpaw shook her head no and Cinderpaw left the prey. Nightpaw's friendship was more important to him then a piece of prey.

"Serves you right, *Kittypet*," Vulturepaw sneered before racing off toward Frostycloud to brag. Nightpaw walked toward Cinderpaw with thankful eyes.

"There's no reason we have to fight over prey. Besides, everyone knows you can hunt. Vulturepaw needs to prove himself," Nightpaw explained and Cinderpaw just dug his claws Ito the soft dirt.

"That doesn't give him permission to treat us lower. I can't imagine how he treats you and the others," Cinderpaw said looking toward the ground. Nightpaw blinked her bright blue eyes and looked down in thought.

"He's just young but he's going to change. Everyone will," she replied again before Spiderpaw set down his robin to speak.

"If he ever treats my sister like he just treated Cinderpaw, I'll kill him," Spiderpaw swore before trotting back to camp. Cinderpaw and Nightpaw followed in dead silence yet they carried nothing.

By the time everyone trailed back to camp is was past high sun and all the cats were exhausted from the walking and hunting that occurred that day. A pile was set up where the fresh kill was to be placed and every cat had or was sharing a piece of prey.

Cinderpaw found himself eating beside the other rogues that included Coldpaw, Darkpaw, Spiderpaw and Icypaw. Cinderpaw share the robin with Spiderpaw while the girls and Darkpaw shared a squirrel Dapplestone had caught.

"Raspypaw took us to this lake down the mountain and we ended up catching water voles. But Icypaw tried to catch the Pike and fell in," Coldpaw laughed making Icypaw flustered.

"I will catch fish before the end of this moon. I promise," Icypaw swore as the rest of the group laughed. Coldpaw's laughing drew to a slow and awkward end to where she was staring off at her fresh kill. Darkpaw noticed and all fell silent until she suddenly rose her head and grimaced.

"Sorry, I just remembered something," Coldpaw said before standing and walking off into one of the dens. Darkpaw exchanged a worried glance with Icypaw but they continued to eat.

"So where are you from, Cinderpaw?" Spiderpaw asked with curiously thinking of Vulturepaw's earlier claims. He pawed away at his food and glared toward where Vulturepaw sat by Nightpaw, Voidpaw, Featherpaw ad Raspypaw. Cinderpaw hated the way e gloated and boasted around the she cats when in reality he hated them for being Kittypets.

"I'm not a Kittypet. My father was a rogue that raised me as a rogue. My Kittypet mother left me and if it weren't for my father, I'd be dead," he growled staring daggers toward Vulturepaw.

"He only treats Kittypets that way," Icypaw whispered as a slight upside but Cinderpaw just scowled.

"And we're going to let him and others treat kittypets that way?" Cinderpaw challenged. Icypaw shrugged in reply but Spiderpaw stood and puffed out his chest.

"If he touches my sister, I'll kill him," Spiderpaw repeated the statement he said before and he walked over to the group.

"Oh no," Darkpaw whispered as the tom walked over to his sister. Icypaw grimaced and so did Cinderpaw as they heard Spiderpaw pull her aside to talk with her.

"Featherpaw, why are you eating with them?" Spiderpaw whispered to her and she scowled at him loudly.

"You're not the boss of me. Besides Nightpaw and these other cats are my friends too. Vulturepaw even caught the biggest squirrel today!" Featherpaw defended and Spiderpaw narrowed his eyes as Vulturepaw snickered at him behind her. His anger was subsided as Nightpaw stood and walked toward Spiderpaw.

"No need to be jealous," Nightpaw said in a way that wasn't genuine but she exchanged a look telling him to avoid conflict. Spiderpaw grunted and went back to sit by Icypaw stayed focused on his meal.

As the sky became darker and the cats settled down Horsetail exited his den and looked around the camp moving from group to group sharing little words. He thanked Frostycloud and Dapplestone for their help in teaching the new cats how to hunt.

Coldpaw had made her way back to the group she ate with earlier and appeared fine and cheery as Horsetail trailed over.

"Thanks again for bringing us here, Horsetail. It means a lot," Coldpaw replied sincerely and Horsetail gave a curt nod.

"I did what Lightclan instructed me to do. Something I hope all of you will soon do," he replied calmly and not in his usual bossy and cranky attitude. When he moved on to the group Featherpaw had sat in with pride Horsetail came to a stop.

"Excellent catch today, Vulturepaw," Horsetail praised making Cinderpaw scowl and exchange a furious glance with Spiderpaw. Is

everyone oblivious in this clan?

"Vulturepaw, may I see you in my den before you sleep tonight?" Horsetail requested causing Coldpaw to snort.

"Now favoritism... I'm going to sleep," Coldpaw said and many cats followed her there in exhaustion.

The rest of the night was silent as a peach furred leader looked on an observed. No one could smell her scent because she had mingled hers with the other rogues and Kittypets to one that was not detectable, even for the elder, Horsetail. She watched as Frostycloud stood guard silently watching the canopy with hawk-like eyes. Yet, even Frostycloud, her old pupil could not detect her mentor soon to make her move and reclaim her status as Leader.

Chapter 8

Allegiances
Clan cats-

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown tabby furred Tom and medicine cat with yellow eyes. 90 moons old.

Warriors:

Redflight- a ginger tabby furred tom with amber eyes. 17 moons.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 17 moons.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes. 23 moons.

Apprentices:

Raspypaw- a lean ginger tabby furred tom with Amber eyes. 8 moons.

Darkpaw- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes. 12 moons.

Coldpaw- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. 25 moons.

Spiderpaw- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow. 14 moons.

Icypaw- white furred she cat with blue eyes. 16 moons.

Vulturepaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes. 7 moons.

Swiftpaw- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail. 19 moons.

Leapingpaw- a lean cream tom with long legs. 23 moons.

Softpaw- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. 8 moons.

Patchedpaw- A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye. 17 moons.

Nightpaw- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. 13 moons.

Featherpaw- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes. 14 moons.

Voidpaw- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes. 7 moons.

Cinderpaw- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes. 20 moons.

Voidpaw crept low through the dark, forest undergrowth, keeping track of its scent. She had picked the dense Cedar section of the forest to where her fur would blend in with the shadows.

She was a Kittypet, and had only recently learned how to hunt a few days ago. This would be her second kill if all went well.

The rabbit soon came into few and Voidpaw swallowed as she dropped into a hunter's crouch. She took slow steps against the soft ground that was protected by the nettles that fell due to the canopy of cedars. The patient steps she took were excruciating since the rabbit was so close but when she finally was in reach she pounced. She barely landed on the rabbit but she hooked get front claws deep into the prey's fur and she stuck to the struggling animal until she managed to clamp her jaw on the prey and it was only seconds before it went limp.

She surveyed the large rodent proudly and picked when there was a slight rustling sounded behind her. Voidpaw turned and nearly jumped in shock.

A grey tomcat with black stripes and yellow eyes stood only a few feet from Voidpaw. She instantly recognized Vulturepaw and let out a small sigh realizing it was just him. The tom her age was much bigger than a normal cat their age and was quite handsome.

Vulturepaw was always near Dapplestone or Horsetail, which had set many rogues on edge.

"What can I do for you?" Voidpaw asked, her friends and the tabby tom cocked his head to the side.

"You can step aside," Vulturepaw ordered expressionless and watching Voidpaw like a spider would watch a fly. She gulped and glanced more closely at the tom. *Why was he acting like this?*

Vulturepaw took a few steps forward, and Voidpaw stepped back in spite of himself. He was just so big, it was hard not to be intimidated.

"Excuse me?" Voidpaw hissed, "Why would I do that? I caught it."

Vulturepaw frowned, "Because I am hungry, you useless Kittypet. If I want a rabbit, you'll give me one," he explained with a grin and Voidpaw suddenly felt less threatened until she thought of how long it took her to catch it.

"Sorry Vulturepaw. You can't have it! Catch your own," she replied bluntly keeping the catch close to her paws.

Vulturepaw's expression changed from a slight indignation to amusement. He swelled to his full size and the hair on his back rose like inky, black spikes.
Voidpaw blanked, but rose up as well but she was nothing in comparison to his size. *What has gotten into him?* Voidpaw wondered throughout the situation.

"Leave the rabbit and go, or I will make you pay, Kittypet!" Vulturepaw threatened toward the terrified she cat.

Voidpaw didn't know if Vulturepaw was serious, but he didn't really want to find out. She slunk away, keeping distance between herself and Vulturepaw's enormous paws and the claws underneath them.

"Voidpaw?" Vulturepaw said, straightening his fur and unpuffing.

"Yes?" Voidpaw turned, wary, and keeping her head down.

"You will not tell anyone what has happened here today. And everything will go back to normal," Vulturepaw explained calmly and Voidpaw swallowed.

"If you do tell anyone, especially Nightpaw. I will kill you," he hissed and she nodded her head and skittered away, both embarrassed and slightly relieved. *Had Vulturepaw done this to anyone else?*

Then he thought of how big and scary Vulturepaw had seemed, and his threat. Voidpaw decided that if Vulturepaw did this again, to him or anyone else, he would tell Dapplestone.

Later that day around noon, Frostycloud had returned from patrol, something they had not taught the other cats to do. The mysterious scent was everyone north of the camp and led up the mountain to the cave, but Frostycloud knew better than to go by herself.

There was something about the forest that was eery and mysterious. Every night she kept guard she felt as she was being watched.

"Dapplestone, would you come with me for a second?" Frostycloud asked the she cat after she was done finishing a large rabbit that she shared with her son.

"Of course," she said and they made their way to the edge of camp, carefully watched by Vulturepaw.

"I've smelled this scent.. north of camp that is mingled with the rogues but it doesn't belong. We need to check it out," Frostycloud explained and Dapplestone nodded her head.

"You get two cats and I'll get two cats," Dapplestone ordered and Frostycloud nodded and walked toward the rogues eating.

"Coldpaw and Icypaw, I need you two to come with me," Frostycloud requested politely and the two she cats rose curiously.

"I'll explain on the way," she instructed and they nodded and followed her north of camp along with Dapplestone, Cinderpaw and Patchedpaw.

"Frostycloud has been detecting other scents around this area that don't eking to any of you," Dapplestone explained following her lead with the other cats behind.

"Did you tell Horsetail?" Patchedpaw questioned and Frostycloud scowled and looked back at him.

"And have him tell us not to? I've been in a clan before," Frostycloud stated and Patchedpaw just looked shocked.

"Maybe we should've told him," Dapplestone said but Icypaw looked at them with a bit of annoyance.

"We're almost there and he wouldn't have cared anyway," Icypaw defended as they broke through the trees and scampered onto the plateau.

As they entered the entrance of the cave all of the group headed in expect Cinderpaw, who was inspecting his reflection in the puddle. Icypaw glanced at him and frowned.

"What are you doing?" She questioned walking back to Cinderpaw. He rose his head and stumbled for words before asking.

"Do I look like a Kittypet?" Cinderpaw asked and Icypaw burst out laughing. He was, no doubt, a handsome tom, but he looked nothing like a perfectly groomed and fat Kittypet she used to observe.

"Of course not. Let's hurry up before they find the cat without us," Icypaw ordered prodding Cinderpaw who still wasn't convinced.

The cats inspected the little scents dwelling in the age but the strongest and most potent was the mysterious cat's. It lingered in a straight path into the cave and into a separate cavern that wasn't the same room that they dreamed of Lightclan in. Instead there was a makeshift nest that was empty but the source of the cat's scent.

"Darn it," Frostycloud murmured and turned to leave. The group silently followed knowing that waiting would only increase worry among the rest of the clan.

By the time they made it back it was almost sun down and the cats were once again exhausted. Frostycloud went straight into the den to get sleep before she would keep watch once again while Dapplestone went to check on Vulturepaw.

"Let's share a squirrel," Coldpaw purposed and the three rogues sat down silently and began to eat. The rogues and Kittypets had adjusted to their new diets, by overall becoming thinner but their stomachs were always filled. At the city they were stared and always had to fight for food.

Soon Darkpaw, Swiftpaw, and Featherpaw gathered near them and they had started a discussion over the events that had occurred that day.

"I caught my fourth rabbit, today. I swear, they're the fattest and slowest rabbits I've ever seen. I lived on a farm and they were nothing like they are here," Swiftpaw explained getting nods in agreement. Everyone agreed that the prey was almost too fat and plentiful.

"Raspypaw, Darkpaw and I spent the whole day exploring the forest and it's massive. Raspypaw says that it's like it because the Twolegs don't touch this land, because it's a mountain range. I hope they never do. The lake down the mountain is huge!" Featherpaw explained in immense excitement. Coldpaw and Icypaw couldn't wait to discover more tomorrow.

"Maybe, I'll take a patrol tomorrow and discuss borders," Horsetail said spontaneously. He had been listening to their conversation but he barely spoke himself.

"Can we come along?" Coldpaw and Icypaw asked at the same time which sent them laughing.

"Possibly, if you won't talk the whole way," Horsetail snickered jokingly and Coldpaw gleamed at the old cat that was finally showing them his true side.

"Of course. We wouldn't catch any prey if we couldn't be quiet," Coldpaw added on and Horsetail rose in thought.

"That reminds me," he said in a louder tone, about to address the clan. "Only ten of you will earn your warrior name at the end of the three moons. Whoever proved themselves in that time will surely become a warrior."

Everyone became silent and exchanged sly glances. Things had changed far too quickly in one challenge.

Hey! I wanted to say CeRosette also helped write the first part of the chapter with Vulturepaw and it really helped me get it put out quicker.

It's getting good! Thanks for all your reads and characters.

Chapter 9

Allegiances
Clan cats-

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown tabby furred Tom and medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Redflight- a ginger tabby furred tom with amber eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Apprentices:

Raspypaw- a lean ginger tabby furred Tom with Amber eyes. .

Darkpaw- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Coldpaw- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Spiderpaw- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow.

Icypaw- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Vulturepaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Swiftpaw- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Leapingpaw- a lean cream tom with long legs.

Softpaw- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Patchedpaw- A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost

black eye.

Nightpaw- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Featherpaw- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Voidpaw- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Cinderpaw- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Since Horsetail had announced that only ten cats would be granted their warrior names at the end of the moon, Featherpaw had been hunting tirelessly.

They were a few days away from that half-way mark of the three moons and Featherpaw had only managed to catch two squirrels and a mouse. The other day, she attempted to chase down a large and lean rabbit, known as a hare, and would've succeeded if she hadn't stumbled into a bush of thorns.

After her pelt was covered with them that day, Horsetail instructed her to come into one of the dens only he had ever been into. It was covered with herbs and varying colors of plants which he mumbled to himself.

Horsetail and Nightpaw ended up pulling each thorn out then covering the wounds with a golden herb called Marigold. The injury had put her progress back a few days and Featherpaw was one of the most determined cats to achieve her warrior name. Everyone looked at her as one of the younger cats due to her size and perky nature but she was the same litter and age as Spiderpaw and insisted to be treated the same as someone his size.

Featherpaw found herself in a hunting patrol with Icypaw and Swiftpaw. Icypaw insisted that if they headed south, down the mountain, they could catch something no cat has done yet and definitely impress Horsetail and the warriors.

"Are we almost there?" Asked Swiftpaw. Icypaw nodded and started

a quick pace that was almost running. Featherpaw always struggled to keep up on the long patrols, but she learned to not show her weakness.

From the moment they arrived, Kittypets were at a disadvantage. Rogues had always been starved and were used to fighting and scavenging. They always walked long distances while Kittypets sat inside and only could go out if it was allowed by their Twoleg.

Featherpaw came to a sudden halt as she saw the light reflect on a large surface in the distance. The large pool of water glimmered against the sun's powerful Summer rays. She had never seen a body of water so huge and she was sure this was what Icypaw meant by a Lake.

"We have to go into the shadows and to where the creeks filter in, otherwise we won't find them," Icypaw explained carefully leading them along the slippery stones lined against the shore.

As they came to a tiny creek covered by the pine canopy that cat shadow on the water. Icypaw crawled forward to the edge of the rock and started to carefully inspect the water. Featherpaw slinked next to her while Swiftpaw observed from afar, not at all interested.

In a quick and slick movement, Icypaw plunged into the water claws outstretched. The splash sent water to Featherpaw and she was soaking. Icypaw soon surfaced with a medium sized fish in her jaws. She smiled and placed it on the stone, and Featherpaw examined the scaly silver fish.

"I can't wait to shove this in Coldpaw's face! We'll go back soon but you need to catch one," Icypaw encouraged as she groomed her dripping wet pelt. Featherpaw nodded and bent forward narrowing her eyes to see the tiny shadows of the fish.

At first, Featherpaw only examined a murky creek flowing towards the lake when a dark shadow started to drift downstream. She knew this was going to be a long shot let she leaped forward with fangs and claws bared. The fish barely found itself into her paws but once it was there it was a goner. Featherpaw's jaw snapped shut cutting through the scaly flesh. She quickly pushed off the bottom and

clawed at the stone, afraid of the water's depth.

Icypaw gripped he scruff and helped the she cat out of the water. Featherpaw set the dead fish on the surface and gasped for air while Icypaw gaped at its size.

"That's a great catch!" Icypaw declared and Featherpaw, still panting, glanced from her fish to Icypaw's. They were different fish but Featherpaw's was definitely bigger. Swiftpaw sniffed gently at the prey and grimaced.

"We can go back to camp. That looks gross," Swiftpaw said with a scrunched face. Icypaw laughed but Featherpaw felt guilty. Swiftpaw had to bring something back.

"Are you sure, what about," Featherpaw stumbled but Swiftpaw shook her head.

"It's fine. I'll catch a rabbit or squirrel on the way back," Swiftpaw assured and the she cats set off.

Surely, Swiftpaw kept her words and came back with a squirrel. It didn't compare in size to the fish Featherpaw caught but it was bigger than a mouse or vole. As they entered camp Spiderpaw, Darkpaw and Cinderpaw raced out barely paying attention to Featherpaw's catch. Swiftpaw scoffed and ran ahead into camp where she placed her squirrel on the pile promptly where one of the Warriors were always watching. Today, instead of a warrior, was Raspypaw. Even though he was an apprentice, he was the closest cat to Horsetail.

As Icypaw and Featherpaw made their way into camp they were bombarded with glances of awe. They were the first to have caught fish in the new clan. Raspypaw's jaw even dropped in awe, for although he tried, he had never caught a fish.

"You really did it!" Coldpaw laughed hysterically at Icypaw. The white she cat shrugged and placed her fish on the pile.

"I told you I'd get catch a fish. I even taught Featherpaw how to," Icypaw stated and Featherpaw nodded her head in agreement.

Coldpaw looked unconvinced but looked too happy to challenge anyone.

"Do you think we could go on a patrol? I think Frostycloud has been dying to find the cat," Coldpaw said with hopeful eyes. As much as the cats loved to hunt, they always loved to experience other things and activities. Many of the cats took the liberty of discovering the land and found many different patches of land across the mountain range. North, up the mountain, there were dense pines and cedar forest that continued south until it reached the lake. East of the dense pines and cedars, there were the tallest oaks and maples. The farthest part, discovered by Swiftpaw, was a section of white wood Birches that stood compact and dense.

"Sure, let's get Frostycloud," Icypaw replied and darted off to where she was eating. Unlike most of the cats, the Warriors unless needed, stayed in camp and taught technic there. Frostycloud had become the most useful night guard while Dapplestone helped many cats learn the hunting technic along with restocking Horsetail's herbs.

Frostycloud finished her meal and gathered Icypaw, Coldpaw and Featherpaw when she felt something odd come upon her. Almost like a bad gut feeling. She figured it was just hunger and that she should enjoy a mouse after the rough day.

"I think I'll stay behind guys. It's been a long day," Featherpaw explained with a bit of dread. Of course she wanted to go but the gut feeling in her stomach made her feel awful.

"No problem. We've got it. We'll see you later then," Icypaw called before they headed out of camp trying to retrace the old scent to a fresher one. As she turned back to look at the pile she admired the carp she had caught and her gut feeling disappeared.

Perhaps I could be a warrior, after all...

I'm on a publishing-roll here. Christmas break has made things a lot easier to get done. Someone has been pressuring me ALL DAY to get this published so here it is guys. *cough* *cough* CeRosette.

Also, no more listing every cat's moons(age). It's getting hard to keep track of and I don't think it's valid to the cats at the moment. Every cat will be listed in their appropriate age group.

As most of you know 6-12 moons is the apprentice aging. That and up are warriors. 6 and below are kits. 72 moons and up are senior warriors or elders.

If you have any other things to tell me you can place them in the comments.

Chapter 10

Allegiances
Clan cats-

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown tabby furred tom and medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Redflight- a ginger tabby furred tom with amber eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Apprentices:

Raspypaw- a lean ginger tabby furred tom with Amber eyes.

Darkpaw- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Coldpaw- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Spiderpaw- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow.

Icypaw- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Vulturepaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Swiftpaw- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Leapingpaw- a lean cream tom with long legs.

Softpaw- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Patchedpaw- A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye.

Nightpaw- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Featherpaw- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Voidpaw- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Cinderpaw- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Dapplestone awoke from a deep sleep with Nightpaw's tail tickling her nose. She lifted her head from her restful position and observed the den. Various cats lay curled in sleeping positions around her, and her son, Vulturepaw, lay spread out against the den's wall closest to her and Nightpaw, and as far away from the Kittypets as possible.

Dapplestone worried about him, and the way he behaved to some of the clan members but time after time she pushed it away. She yawned and stretched, getting up from her spot. Nightpaw opened an eye and looked at her sleepily.

"What...?" She mumbled.

"Nothing," Dapplestone soothed, "go back to sleep." Dapplestone left the nest and ventured out into the cold, morning air. Very few cats were awake, and most were cats who took a very early hunting start or Frostycloud who kept a silent watch over camp. She approached Frostycloud, who sat on a boulder overlooking the camp.

"You look tired, Frostycloud," Dapplestone called to her fellow warrior. "How about I take over?"

"That would be great," Frostycloud sighed dreamily, "I think I just might take you up on that."

Frostycloud jumped off the rock and walked slowly toward the nest. Dapplestone took her place on the rock and began licking her paws, then her face, to wake herself up.

The camp was peaceful, and all was quiet. Dapplestone had missed clan life dearly, and had hated living as a Rogue. There had been no honor in it, and she had missed having fellow warriors always ready to help each other. There was a slight hint of unrest in this clan, sure, but Dapplestone knew that when the time came, they would all be ready to fight for each other, and not just for themselves. And in time they would all become family.

There was a slight rustling behind Dapplestone, and she turned to see Patchedpaw padding up to the Boulder she sat on.

"Were you trying to be sneaky?" Dapplestone purred, amused at the tom's attempt. She thought Patchedpaw was quite handsome, for a Kittypet. Most of his kind, she found, were too soft and round for her taste.

But Patchedpaw had thinned somewhat since he had joined the clan, and was looking more rugged. His attitude was sincere and often soft but he showed traits of exceptional bravery that she had only witnessed in few cats. Dapplestone didn't think that any amount of clan life could get rid of that innocent light in his eyes that made him so charming at the same time. Patchedpaw blushed and looked at the ground.

"I was trying, but you caught me," he spoke, flustered, "I couldn't sleep, and I wanted to talk to you about something." Dapplestone smiled as welcoming as she could and patted the space on the boulder beside her.

"Certainly. I have nothing else to do," she replied as if it was nothing yet Patchedpaw blushed again, and jumped onto the rock, sitting down after a moment's hesitation. He wished that he would stop blushing around Dapplestone, he must look so childish. Compared to Dapplestone, Patchedpaw thought that he must look like quite the lame tom, Kittypet or not. She was such a young and exotic she cat, and he was well, named Patchedpaw.

"So, Patchedpaw," Dapplestone purred with a silkily smooth deliverance that sent chills done Patchedpaw's spine. "What is it that you want to talk about?"

"I was wondering if...well...," Patchedpaw stuttered, "If you could...I don't know..,"

Dapplestone looked at him with now annoyance. "What? Spit it out!"

"Will you take me hunting again?" Patchedpaw asked, very loudly, and blushed when all the cats in the camp looked at him. Coldpaw snickered from where she shared a rabbit with Darkpaw. And Spiderpaw rolled his eyes, muttering "smooth" under his breath.

Dapplestone looked at him with a mixture of suprise and good humor, trying not to laugh aloud. *These Kittypets...*

"Is that all?" she snickered, and gave Patchedpaw a quick nod and a hopeful look.

"Of course I will! It's not that strange of a thing to ask, you don't have to be so terrified," Dapplestone replied with a small laugh. Spiderpaw watched the proceedings, from the edge of camp, astonished. Patchedpaw could hardly believe his luck. He thanked her several times, fell off the rock, and skittered away towards Spiderpaw, who looked at him in disbelief.

"How'd you do that?" Spiderpaw demanded, stepping in front of Patchedpaw, who looked at him just as shocked.

"What do you mean?" Patchedpaw asked, trying to play it cool, which was very much unlike him and didn't fool Spiderpaw in the slightest.

"You know what I mean! Dapplestone's a you-know-what, and you're just-"

"What'd you call her?" Patchedpaw snapped, defensively. As soon as he words slipped out he took a small step back and swallowed. He couldn't let his feeling slip like that.

"She's a warrior, not some mate less she cat! She's already had a mate and loved someone so, how'd you do that?" Spiderpaw asked, frustrated. Dapplestone was really quite beautiful, and seemed like a serious warrior but Patchedpaw saw through the thick mask she put up. The fact that Patchedpaw, who was timid and barely an apprentice, could just walk up to her and get a private hunting lesson after acting like a fool really rubbed Spiderpaw's fur the wrong way.

"I just asked Spiderpaw, it's not that hard," Patchedpaw said, feeling slightly smug. *Who was a timid fool of a tom now?* He walked away from Spiderpaw with his tail proudly in the air. His day just kept getting better and better.

Vulturepaw suddenly crept out of the shadows of the nest and stepped in front of Patchedpaw, who stopped before smashing into the young tom who was his size.

Vulturepaw had watched Patchedpaw and is mother talk from the entrance of the nest with narrowed, disbelieving eyes. He couldn't believe what his mother had done.

"Who do you think you are," he hissed at Patchedpaw whose expression was nonchalant and calm after the exit meant that occurred. Patchedpaw didn't know how to answer. Vulturepaw didn't seem mad, but with him you could never really tell until it was too late, or so Patchedpaw heard.

"Um, I think I am an apprentice named Patchedpaw," he said with an obvious tone, taking a cautious step back.

"So, Patchedpaw, do you think you're special?" Vulturepaw asked calmly, his yellow eyes gleaming cruelly. Patchedpaw blinked, confused. Vulturepaw was freaking him out. He didn't seem anything at all like his mother, Dapplestone. In fact, at this point he was looking downright mean-spirited.

"No, I don't think so," Patchedpaw answered after a moment's pause.

Vulturepaw smirked, showing his fangs, and said coldly, "Then what makes you think that a cowardly Kittypet like you can be with a

red-blooded clan warrior?"

Patchedpaw blushed, "I don't know what you're talking about, Vulturepaw."

"Ha!" Vulturepaw snorted in derision, "I've had to watch you make eyes at her since we arrived," he sneered and Patchedpaw focused on staying calm. Dapplestone would hate him if anything happened to her first born.

"So what if I have?" Patchedpaw snapped, hoping he looked tough and brave, and not like a frightened apprentice. "What's wrong with that? She's nice to me, why don't you yell at her!" Patchedpaw challenged with a step forward sending Vulturepaw into a snarl.

"Because my mother is nice to everybody," Vulturepaw sneered, "and if you try anything, so help me I will-,"

"What's going on here?" Spiderpaw asked harshly, approaching Vulturepaw and Patchedpaw. He had seen enough to know that Vulturepaw was once again bullying a Kittypet. This time the victim was Patchedpaw.

"Nothing," Vulturepaw said, all calm and cordial. He gave Patchedpaw a threatening glare when Spiderpaw wasn't looking, making Patchedpaw shut his eyes and he avoided eye contact.

"Y-Yeah! Nothing," Patchedpaw repeated in a mumble, leaving Spiderpaw to deal with Vulturepaw. Spiderpaw padded up to Vulturepaw and looked him in the eye, all business and intimidation.

"You can't fool me, kit," he glared. "I can see right through your act. What is it, then? You think you're better than us?"

Vulturepaw snickered right in Spiderpaw's face, "I have no idea what you're talking about. I just came out for a bit of fresh air before my shift and ran into Patchedpaw here as he was leaving," Vulturepaw corrected with a lie and Spiderpaw grimaced at the Tom once again getting away with it.

Not seeing anything more he could do, Spiderpaw left, but not

before hitting Vulturepaw with a remark that made the striped cat's blood boil.

"Good luck on your hunt with Dapplestone, Patchedpaw!" he called, and walked away, snickering loudly.

Vulturepaw betrayed his mask of calm and hissed at Spiderpaw's retreating back, and went back into the nest. Patchedpaw didn't know what do now, should he go hunting and risk being harassed by Vulturepaw?

"Hey!" A familiar voice called.
Dapplestone approached Patchedpaw, smiling brightly.

"Hi!" Patchedpaw grinned and met the distance between them. Dapplestone gave him a smile that made his heart leap and made him feel something he had never felt before.

"I got off early, we can go hunting now if you wish!" She said, waiting for his reply.

"Oh! Of course!" Patchedpaw nodded, pushing thoughts of Vulturepaw out of his mind. She led him out of the camp, telling Horsetail that they would be back by afternoon with plenty of prey.

The forest was foggy with morning frost, and the dew on the grass and against the pines made the forest seem like a beautiful yet mystical place. Patchedpaw was glad that they lived here, and snuck a glance at Dapplestone. She seemed to be one with the forest, weaving through the trees like a shadow, or a whisper of grass. He felt so lucky to be going hunting with her.

"So, Dapplestone, how long have you been hunting?" He asked. Dapplestone looked at him as she walked, and thought about the question and was speechless for quite a bit.

"Oh, I can't even remember. Ever since I was made an apprentice. Skyclan had all the kits trained to be warriors much earlier than Horsetail is initiating you. Every time a kit was six moons the leader would hold a ceremony and make them an apprentice," she said in a bit of an explanation. "And most of us she cats had kits once we

were made warriors."

"Oh. Right," Patchedpaw blushed. He was so stupid, obviously Vulturepaw came from somewhere, but he felt uncomfortable at the idea that she had already had a mate. Even though he already heard that he always pushed that fact away.

"Who was your, ah, mate?" He asked, trying to be cool about it. Dapplestone gave him an odd look. He bit his cheek and cringed. He shouldn't have asked that.

"Thunderstar," she sighed. "Leader of Skyclan. We were mates right after I became a warrior. He was... my mentor," she said awkwardly. Luckily she didn't have to explain the age difference between her and Thunderstar. Dapplestone never thought it important because they lied each other.

"Oh. What was he like?" Patchedpaw asked, uncomfortable. He felt like he was prying, but Dapplestone didn't seem to mind.

"It's hard to explain. If you've talked to Vulturepaw...well he looks just like him. He was much more forgiving than Vulturepaw, though, but you could always rely on him to make fair and just decisions that made everyone happy. He wanted to be a good leader, but he placed his trust in cats, he shouldn't have." Dapplestone shook her head, as if clearing his thoughts. She looked at Patchedpaw very seriously.

"Why did you really want us to meet here?" She searched his face so harshly, that it made Patchedpaw blush again.

This was Patchedpaw's chance to tell Dapplestone how he felt about her. He decided couldn't stutter now, or back down. He had to be a brave warrior, and not an inexperienced apprentice. Patchedpaw had to be a real tom.

"I really like you, Dapplestone," He admitted bravely. "You're the most talented and knowledgable she cat I've ever meant. Not to mention your prettier and more exotic then," Patchedpaw stumbled on until Dapplestone silenced him with a flick of her tail.

Dapplestone looked at him for a long time, with an indescribable look on her face, but Patchedpaw was glad that he could finally stand up for what he wanted, whether he achieved it or not. Finally, Dapplestone smiled sweetly and spoke.

"I like you too, Patchedpaw," she said, "But let's wait until you're a warrior. okay? It'll give time for Vultureclaw and the clan to adjust to things." Patchedpaw couldn't believe what she was saying. Dapplestone liked him too. This had to be the greatest day of his warrior life! He was apart of a clan of warrior cats and he had one of the prettiest she cats at camp say that she wanted to be with him. He was so preoccupied with his happy thoughts that at first he didn't notice. Dapplestone walk away, deeper into the forest.

"Do you realize what this means, Patchedpaw?" Dapplestone called to him, looking back with romantic eyes. After his silence, she smiled coyly.

"When you become a warrior. We will be mates," she purred, and turned away heading back to the camp with her tail held high and her spirit lifted.

Patchedpaw was very glad that nobody could see his face. If he were a Twoleg, his face would probably be bright red.

"Are you coming?" She called without looking back, "We have prey catch!"

Meanwhile, back at camp, Vulturepaw was taking advantage of his free time.
He sat under a pine tree, licking his paws, and trying to ignore Nightpaw.
She had been bothering him all morning, from the time she had left the nest up until now. She felt that she needed to get on his good side, but didn't really want to decipher why.
And Vulturepaw didn't even seem to notice. He was too busy bothering Featherpaw while Spiderpaw enjoyed a nap.

Nightpaw on the other hand didn't know why he bothered with Featherpaw. The she cat was her friend, and Featherpaw knew she liked Vulturepaw. Featherpaw was sweet, caring, and far too

innocent and Vulturepaw just...wasn't.

Nightpaw stopped herself from delving into this. If Vulturepaw was so mean, why did she care so much about being his friend?

"Your whole clan?" Nightpaw heard Featherpaw wimper softly. Whatever Vulturepaw was talking about, it was clearly upsetting Featherpaw.

"That's right," Vulturepaw said softly, a sad expression on his face, which was unlike him. Usually he didn't express much of anything, except displeasure.

"Twolegs took away everything. My father...who was the leader, by the way, and my sister, Tulip," he sighed, and Featherpaw, who had been laying in the shade next to him, put her tail on his shoulder.

"Why? Why would the twolegs do that?" Her eyes were wide and innocent. Vulturepaw looked at her very seriously, as if the words he spoke were some sort of law.

"They did it because that's what twolegs do," he said fiercely, "They don't care about us. We're nothing but furry toys to them! Replaceable, expendable, and if anyone says any different they'd be lying to you!"

Featherpaw's eyes widened and she stood in disbelief. "Not all twolegs are like that, Vultureclaw,"

Nightpaw held her breath, afraid of what he might say. She didn't want either cat hurt. Vulturepaw just looked at her sadly, as if he pitied her.

"Really?" He sighed, "We aren't dogs, Featherpaw. When you left, they probably didn't even care."

"That's a lie!" Featherpaw screamed, and ran away toward the woods.

Nightpaw was tempted to follow her, to comfort her, but she knew that she couldn't do so without revealing the fact that she had been spying on them.

Pretending that she had returned from the other side of camp, she approached Vulturepaw casually.

Vulturepaw had watched Featherpaw leave with eyes narrowed. He wore a smile that gave Nightpaw a bad fealing.

"Vulturepaw, why are you doing this?" Nightpaw asked with a sad expression. He could be a good cat, if he just let his anger go.

"Nightpaw, come with me," Vulturepaw ordered heading west, where the park was. Nightpaw silently followed but still keeping her guard as the tom led her through the dense forest back to the Park.

"Vulturepaw, what are we doing?" Nightpaw questioned stoping in her tracks but Vulturepaw didn't look back or stop.

"The clan doesn't understand. I don't hate Kittypets. I pity them and want to help them. I want to help them see the truth so that they never regret the life they chose," Vulturepaw stated making Nightpaw tilt her head in thought. She was about to speak when Vulturepaw stopped and silenced her.

"What I said to Featherpaw was harsh, but I'm going to prove what I said earlier," Vulturepaw insisted calmly with a none-hostile nature to him. Nightpaw was intrigued that she continued to follow the tabby tom through the dense wood and finally past the park to where they came to the subdivision near.

When they did reach the houses it was nighttime and not many Twolegs were visible. Vulturepaw swallowed and continued walking through the neighborhood. Nightpaw could tell it was hard for him.

When they came upon Featherpaw's and Nightpaw's houses, the two slinked up to the windows where light shined brightly through. Featherpaw's Twolegs seemed to be enjoying their prey and everything seemed normal. Nightpaw flinched at their happy faces and she gasped when a small fluffy shape slinked into the room and their faces lit with joy.

The small small tabby kitten was young and Nightpaw grimaced at the thought of the kitten being yanked away from its mother at that young of an age. She ran back to the Park before she could even glimpse at her old yard. Now she perfectly understood the phrase.. Ignorance is bliss.

Later that night, Nightpaw found herself sobbing into a small creek that held her reflection. Her fur was no longer pristine, yet it was dark black and the moon gave off the impression it had blue. Her eyes were striking blue due to her perfuse sobbing.

Although she heard no sound, she felt Vulturepaw's presence but didn't bother to look.

"What do you want?" Nightpaw whimpered, hating the truth that he had exposed to them.

"I want to help you, and the clan. You've seen the truth, now you can help also. It's what we were destined to do Nightpaw," Vulturepaw nurtured calmly sitting next to her. His tail slunk around her and he pulled her into his chest.

"You....you're right, about everything," Nightpaw whimpered into his chest and Vulturepaw pressed her closer hiding his sly grin.

Most of this chapter was written by CeRosette. She did a fantastic job of capturing her characters personalities.

Thanks for reading, voting and commenting.

Chapter 11

Allegiances
Clan cats-

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown tabby furred Tom and medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Redflight- a ginger tabby tom with amber eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Apprentices:

Raspypaw- a lean ginger tabby furred tom with Amber eyes.

Darkpaw- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Coldpaw- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Spiderpaw- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow.

Icypaw- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Vulturepaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Swiftpaw- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Leapingpaw- a lean cream tom with long legs.

Softpaw- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Patchedpaw- A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye.

Nightpaw- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Featherpaw- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Voidpaw- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Cinderpaw- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Frostycloud investigated the scents as they traveled along the previous sent trails. The cat kept moving every night making Frostycloud and Dapplestone tenser.

They still hadn't told Horsetail for the mere fact that he was completely against hostility and strength. As the new apprentices began training Dapplestone and Frostycloud insisted that they be trained in battle but Horsetail declined profusely.

Being a Medicine cat had twisted Horsetail's mind to assume bit preparing cats for battle would make sure they would never enter battle. Dapplestone hated Horsetail rule most of all because weak cat would not create peace. Thunderstar taught her one of the most important rules in a clan, that through strength comes peace.

For a long time they followed the old trail back up to the cave and out east, down the mountain, until they were close to the lake. They slinked their way through the exact path the mystery cat took that was already paved out for them.

"I think I found a fresher scent!" Icypaw called out to Frostycloud and the she cat perked her ears and was instantly focused. Coldpaw noticed that Icypaw was sniffing near the same spot they had hunted in earlier. A chilling thought came about Icypaw and she realized the cat was watching them, and they were oblivious.

"Where's it leading to?" Frostycloud urged quickly barreling to Icypaw's side. The white she cat rose her muzzle and her lip quivered as she tried to deliver the words.

"Ba...ack, to camp," she mumbled and Coldpaw immediately read toward the camp worrying for her friends and especially Darkpaw, who she had grown fond of.

Frostycloud raced with her and Icypaw followed in a daze, still disturbed that the cat had been watching them. The race back to camp was a long trek uphill and Icypaw slowly fell behind with the others pressed forward as even passed hunting patrols coming back with plentiful prey.

"Spiderpaw, Leapingpaw, hurry!" Coldpaw managed to spit out. The two toms and they raised their ears alarmed at all the sudden as Icypaw caught up. The she cat came to a slow pause and took a frantic breath.

"Intruder. A cat had been watching us, they're headed for camp!" Icypaw spat out quickly before barreling off after the others.

As they finally came close a scream electrified the air. The scream sent Spiderpaw dashing into camp with raised fur. A small black she cat lay underneath the powerful claws of the intruder, except the cat wasn't unknown to Frostycloud. The pale white she cat stopped in her tracks as she examined the peach furred pelt with brown parches and a ring around her left amber eye that set her apart from many cats. Frostycloud stuttered at the shock of seeing her old leader as Spiderpaw hissed when the small black she cat turned her eyes to reveal, it wasn't Featherpaw, but Voidpaw.

"Get off of her now!" Coldpaw demanded. The she cat was threatening to pounce with her now exposed and lethal claws and raised fur.

"Where's your leader? Where is Horsetail?" The peach furred she cat demanded in a loud voice, without brutality or hostility.

"Let her go before we rip your mangy pelt off!" Vulturepaw hissed baring his fangs. The other cats shivered at his threat but the she

cat laughed.

"Get this kit away from me, and lead me to your leader!" She repeated making Vulturepaw take large steps forward until a loud shout came through the air.

"Enough!" Horsetail echoed and Vulturepaw took a reluctant step back as he noticed Horsetail and his mother had returned from collecting herbs. Dapplestone quickly pitched the herbs into the Herb storage while Horsetail examined the scene, frozen before his eyes.

"Explain yourselves," he ordered calmly as he sat upon the Boulder closest to his den. The whole camp stared toward the new cat who calmly realized her grip on Voidpaw and the she cat crawled away in a hiss.

"I am Shystar. I was former leader of Pureclan, but as all of you can see, those times are over," she explained softly exchanging grim glances with other cats. Coldpaw and Icypaw quickly realized that she was not evil, not a threat. She was a true warrior, and a leader, nothing of what they thought she would be.

"Why did you hide?" Coldpaw challenged suspiciously. Icypaw nodded her head but Frostycloud stepped forward.

"Why? You knew I was alive yet you didn't even bother to tell me. I thought we were clanmates.. I admired you," Frostycloud muttered with sorrowful eyes. Coldpaw couldn't imagine what it felt like to lose someone then suddenly realize, they were alive. Vivid images of her old friend's dead body soon clouded her mind and she discreetly left for the den. She had to forget.

"I hid from you because I was afraid, if they discovered I was a leader... they'd hate me and immediately think I was going to renew my leadership. Cats don't enjoy other cats taking power," Shystar explained sending a sly glare toward Voidpaw who narrowed her eyes.

"But, I've decided, I will earn my leadership in this new clan. For I've earned it with the past Starclan and will have it with Lightclan.

If I have too, I'm prepared to fight for it," she declared softly and every cat there was now fully engaged. Cinderpaw and Darkpaw exchanged grim glanced at the thought of having to pledge allegiance to a cat they just met, just because the stars have her leadership.

"You shall keep your name and your lives. But your leadership is undetermined as the rest of the clan. Every cat will earn what is given to them, or earn not. Now, get rest, the half moon is almost past," Horsetail announced giving a small glance to the half moon high in the sky. Darkpaw knew fully that it meant only half a moon was left before warrior names were given.

The meeting disbanded and cats are their meals quite silently, wary of the future. Darkpaw found himself drowsy in thought as he settled into his nest that night. Sleep soon came upon him, but dawn was quicker.

"Hurry, we need to get some birds," Cinderpaw prodded Darkpaw with his paw and the tom grunted and slowly rose. They were the first ones up and we're ready to prove themselves.

"Did you ask Frostycloud or Dapplestone for tips?" Darkpaw questioned anxious if he knew how to hunt birds. Of course birds had been caught, but the most common prey were squirrels, mice and rabbits. Rabbits were almost always caught but Swiftpaw or Leapingpaw and Voidpaw had the record for most mice in one day.

"Neither. The only way we can really prove ourselves is by learning it ourselves," Cinderpaw figured making Darkpaw roll his eyes in tiredness and the thought of not catching anything.

Darkpaw enjoyed clan life as all the cats did and probably enjoyed Cinderpaw's and Coldpaw's company over a lot. But Cinderpaw was far too eager to become a warrior and prove himself ever since Vulturepaw called him a Kittypet. The tom was not a Kittypet at all and after almost two moons of training, was far to muscular and ragged to be presumed one.

Feather always insisted that looking like a Kittypet but acting like a rogue was the best thing to do. Of course Spiderpaw laughed at his

sister's proposition which naturally drove her to hunt with her closer friend, Nightpaw.

Darkpaw was almost oblivious when it came to the division of the clan. Everything he knew about it he was informed from Cinderpaw or Spiderpaw. He decided to remain neutral, for it wasn't his problem to begin with, so why would he get involved.

"We're here. The trees are easier to climb, so naturally easier chances," Cinderpaw said looking out at the tinier saplings that would in many many moons become large oaks. Darkpaw observed as Cinderpaw prowled off toward a tree containing a nest and he carefully positioned himself on the same branch. Before Darkpaw could witness him catch anything, he saw a slight movement out of the corner of his eyes. He dropped into a hunter's crouch and crept forward onto the Starling that was obliviously pecking away at the worms the ground provided. As he came within inches close of the prey he flared his claws and pounced. Sadly, the Starling escaped his grasp by a claw length and he slammed into the ground empty handed.

"Dog dung!" He cursed as he picked himself off the ground and glanced around for another bird or another scent. It was only a second when he spotted another Starling pecking away as the base of an oak and Darkpaw laughed within. Unless the bird was smart, it'd flee toward the tree and Darkpaw could trap it.

Once again he dropped into a lie crouch careful to step over the twigs and acorns scattered over the floor. Darkpaw's pelt allowed him to crawl closer then other pelts did and he grinned as he leaped and landed on the Starling. He claws dug into the wings and he but the bird's throat and he had successfully caught his first bird.

Cinderpaw had also succeeded to catch a bright red Cardinal and the two strolled back to camp with an accomplished feeling. Never before had they felt such gratitude in providing for others. The clan life was filled with honor, respect, loyalty, and family. Cinderpaw and Darkpaw were thankful every day to go from loners to Clanmates.

I hoped you like the new chapter!

Chapter 12

Allegiances
Clan cats-

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown tabby furred Tom and medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Redflight- a ginger tabby furred tom with amber eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shystar- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Raspypaw- a lean ginger tabby furred tom with Amber eyes.

Darkpaw- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Coldpaw- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Spiderpaw- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow.

Icypaw- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Vulturepaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Swiftpaw- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Leapingpaw- a lean cream tom with long legs.

Softpaw- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Patchedpaw- A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye.

Nightpaw- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Featherpaw- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Voidpaw- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Cinderpaw- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

"So, what is this clan called?" Shystar questioned curiously as she joined a hunting patrol early in the morning.

"What do you mean?" Voidpaw replied, confused at what she was asking. Swiftpaw also look confused at her words before Raspypaw explained.

"Back before the clans were destroyed.. I belonged to a clan called Shadowclan," Raspypaw croaked before it led into a cough. The young tom was already a great warrior yet his lungs were still too damaged from the fires that demolished his clan 5 moons ago.

"I came from a clan called Pureclan. Except I wasn't quite clan born," Shystar said quietly and Swiftpaw turned her attention in surprise.

"You weren't? I was sure by the looks of you that you were," Swiftpaw mumbled in shock and Shystar shook her head.

"I was half-clan, half-rogue. But in my heart, I'm full Pureclan," Shystar said before she came to a slow halt. The scent of rabbits filled the air and Swiftpaw had already dropped into a low crouch and trotted toward the nearest scent.

Voidpaw, determined to catch a piece of prey bigger then herself, bounded down the hill. The rabbits were most common in the place they were hunting do to the little undergrowth. Rabbit's main defense against predators was their speed, so undergrowth would only prevent that. Voidpaw stuck low to the ground remembering what Dapplestone had told her the other day.

"Patience," Voidpaw mumbled as she saw the silhouette of a sandy furred rabbit. The small steps were agonizing but Voidpaw focused on the prey's twitching ears and alarmed eyes. If aw went any faster, the rabbit would flee.

Another few steps forward and the rabbit was still frozen on it's hunches. Voidpaw took the chance and bolted forward. She outstretched her claws and felt the rabbit's pelt under her claws for a brief second before it veered off leaving Voidpaw, empty handed.

After collecting more nesting materials for the den, they soon headed back to camp. Shystar had a large Vole, Swiftpaw caught a nice rabbit, and Raspypaw was also empty handed. The young apprentice often had days of off and on trouble with his lungs. Some days they cause problems, somedays they were fine. If Raspypaw couldn't hold back a cough or a wheeze while hunting, the prey would instantly flee.

A few days after his journey to the Twolegplace with Nightpaw, Vulturepaw sat on the large rock overlooking camp and smiled. The implication with Shystar was not going to be a threat, but a positive attribution to his future plan.

Vulturepaw thought that being on guard duty had to be the most interesting thing about being in a clan, besides becoming a warrior. Most cats groaned internally at the thought of having to wake up early and watch the clan. Not only was it boring to most, but a cat could only watch the same cats do the same things for so long. Naturally is was somewhat hated for cats that didn't understand the true importance.

But Vulturepaw didn't hate his morning duties in the slightest. He had been able to notice and observe things he hadn't in the past. This helped his chances of becoming a warrior increase largely.

By his second time standing guard he notice that almost all the Kittypet apprentices were up considerably earlier than the others, or at least the cats he was interested in. Vulturepaw guessed that it was because these Kittypets had been fed very early in the mornings when they had lived with their twolegs.

Whatever their reason for waking up so early Vulturepaw knew he could use this to his advantage. Ever since Horsetail had given the deadline for being warrior ready, and the valuable information that only 10 could become warriors by the end of the three moon. Vulturepaw new that he would have to step up his game. He knew that his previous, childish behavior would get him nowhere; it was time for him to step up his game, in the only way he knew.

Vulturepaw shook himself free of his thoughts and smiled when he saw just the person he wanted to see, Voidpaw. She was trailing back from a hunting patrol with Swiftpaw, Shystar, and Raspypaw. The majority of the camp knew of their incident, and he knew that he would have to fix that error in judgement if he was to ever get what he wanted.

"Voidpaw," Vulturepaw called down, getting nothing but a glare from the she cat. He knew that to get what he wanted, he would need to do something that two weeks ago would have killed him. He jumped down from the rock and smiled at her. It hurt his face.

"What do you want?" Voidpaw growled venomously. She didn't want to make the mistake of getting too close, so she kept a distance of three feet between them. Vulturepaw lowered his head in submission, making Voidpaw's eyes widen with shock.

"I-I wanted to apologize for my actions. It was rude, childish, and disrespectful to treat you the way I did," he said in a sad and pleading voice. It made he sick as the words slipped out but Voidpaw sat up promptly and others gasped. Frostycloud and Icypaw watched this event unfold with as much shock as Voidpaw. They couldn't believe what they were hearing.

"As penance for my actions," Vulturepaw continued when Voidpaw said nothing, "I went to the woods this morning to get you this."

Walking around her to the back of the rock, he quickly returned with a large squirrel. Dropping it at her feet, he took a few steps back and to show respect. Icypaw gasped, and Frostycloud's mouth dropped open. He was apologizing to a Kittypet? Maybe he was sorry. Why else would he make Voidpaw seem superior.

"He showed submission," Icypaw whispered to Frostycloud, who just stared. Voidpaw couldn't speak for a few seconds. She could just stare at the squirrel. It was so large, any cat would have paraded it through camp, but Vulturepaw was giving it to her.

"You can say that you caught it, if you want," Vulturepaw said, getting up. He figured that was enough groveling to earn forgiveness. Besides, this just sickened him, but he kept smiling.

After a long pause, Voidpaw spoke, "Thank you, Vulturepaw," She mewed, and took the squirrel, leaving for the pile as quickly as possible. Frostycloud went after her with Icypaw, who was giggling and kept looking back at Vulturepaw.

Vulturepaw sighed with relief and jumped back onto the rock, resuming his duties. He didn't notice Horsetail standing next to the rock until the old tom spoke.

"That was a valiant thing to do, Vulturepaw," Horsetail said, watching the woods.

Vulturepaw shrugged, "I behaved a mean-spirited coward," He said humbly, knowing that this was both what needed to be said and what Horsetail wanted to hear.

"I know that now," He added, hoping to score bonus points.

Horsetail just nodded and looked up at Vulturepaw, who maintained a serene expression. The old tom looked the young apprentice in the eyes for a long time before looking away. Vulturepaw breathed a small sigh of relief when Horsetail looked away. The medicine cat made Vulturepaw nervous. From day one, when Horsetail called him to his nest to speak with him, he had felt the need to please him. Whether it was because he respected the old cat or just wanted to be a warrior very badly, he always felt like the

tom was judging him.

"You have grown, Vulturepaw," Horsetail admitted in a slightly pleased tone, "At first you were angry; vengeful even, but now I think you are at peace,"

What was this? Vulturepaw nodded humbly, but on the inside he was so relieved things were working. Not only had he convinced Horsetail that he was warrior-ready, but by now the story of is apology to Voidpaw would put the thought of his personal changing in the cats' minds, and nearly all of them would think that he deserved a chance. This was a mental curveball that he knew would work in his favor. Sure, a few meat-headed toms would doubt him, but they were just afraid that he was threat to their mating opportunities.

The last thing that he needed to do was make peace with Patchedpaw, but Vulturepaw decided to wait for that. He had done enough groveling for one day. Besides, he didn't approve of his mother's actions. Why should he? She had made her choice to spend her days with Patchedpaw, and didn't give her own son the slightest bit of attention.

For weeks after Skyclan had fallen, Vulturepaw had obsessed over why his mother was so distant with him, her own young kit? At first he had chalked it off to grief. He could believe it because he had been grieving himself, for his father and his sister. However, as time went on and Vulturepaw got older, his mother would spend days not meeting his gaze, or his smiles. He didn't understand it, until about two moons after Skyclan, when he looked at his own reflection in a stream.
Vulturepaw had looked so similar to his father then that he had hissed in surprise. It was then that he knew why his own mother couldn't bear to look at him some days. For weeks after that he felt angrier, more sullen, and could find solace nor happiness in anything. He snapped at Dapplestone and killed rodents for fun. Until they had found this new clan, Vulturepaw was certain that he was going mad at the thought that his own mother would be happier without him. In fact, if they had not discovered this clan he would have most certainly ran away.

"Heya, Vulturepaw!" Nightpaw's approach shook him from his dark thoughts. He looked down and gave the dark black she cat a genuine smile.

"You're up early," He commented, and Nightpaw snorted and rolled her eyes.

"Only because Icypaw was talking to everyone about what you did," Nightpaw said coyly, making a face.

"Huh, I don't know about that," Vulturepaw said, playing it cool, "It was the right thing to do." Nightpaw smiled and jumped up on the rock. Looking into the vast expanse of pine trees outside of the camp, she wondered how many cats, how many clans lived out there. She couldn't see, her old home, in the distance but a lump began to form in her throat so she looked away.

Ever since Vulturepaw had showed her how easily twolegs discarded Featherpaw, she didn't want to she gets. Nightpaw had decided to be more prudent with where she put her love and affections. The little, gray kitten she had seen with Featherpaw's twolegs haunted her mind, especially since the twolegs had seemed so overjoyed with it. *What did it have that Featherpaw didn't? Why didn't they care for here, anymore?*

As if reading her thoughts, Vulturepaw said, "You shouldn't dwell on the twolegs, Nightpaw, it will only bring you pain and uncertainty."

Nightpaw nodded and looked away from the trees, saying, "How is your warrior training going?" Vulturepaw shrugged and stretched.

"Well enough to make it into the warrior ranks. I think I could defend our clan with the best of them," He bragged, and looked at Nightpaw inquisitively, "What about you?"

"I'm not sure, there are a lot of skilled apprentices," Nightpaw said, "for instance, all the other cats think that Swiftpaw will be one of the first named a warrior. She was the first to catch prey and has never stopped. Some say Spiderpaw..."

Vulturepaw snorted with laughter, but quickly stopped. Spiderpaw was nearby, talking to Cinderpaw and Raspypaw. The jet black Tom was alway watching Vulturepaw now.

"He thinks you are after Featherpaw," Nightpaw explained, and waited with baited breath for his answer. It seemed as if she were holding her breath in a bit of hope and Vulturepaw chuckled.

"So what if I am? It isn't his business. Just because they were the same litter, doesn't mean their siblings," Vulturepaw said thinking of how Spiderpaw went to live a rogue life while leaving Featherpaw to live as a dishonorable kittypet. It made Vulturepaw sick. He would've never done that to Tulip.

Nightpaw frowned, and looked at the Featherpaw, who was conversing under a tree with Leapingpaw and Dapplestone. Again, it made her nervous when Vulturepaw talked of wanting Featherpaw. Nothing good could come of it. *Why was he so interested in her*? Nightpaw thought enviously. She was older and far less soft, or at least she tried to be.

"Nightpaw," Vulturepaw said seriously, causing Nightpaw to look at him. He looked intensely into her eyes.
His sharp, yellow eyes seemed to go through her sockets and look into her mind. She tried too keep her thoughts empty, but she couldn't keep her mind off how handsome he was.

"If a cat becomes a leader, that the clan doesn't like and I were to take cats away to make a new clan, would you come with me?" He asked, his gaze searching. Nightpaw closed her eyes and took a deep breath.

"Vulturepaw... what do you mean? Of course I want to be in the same clan with you but," Nightpaw began before Vulturepaw cut her off.

"I'm not following some at called Shystar... and I'm not going to rely on a weak Medicine cat to decide the leader," Vulturepaw whispered honesty before strutting into the den. Nightpaw sat full of questions needing answers, instead she grabbed a mouse and began to silently eat.

"Raspypaw, do you have any siblings?" Featherpaw asked curiously, remembering the bits and fragments of what he had said in earlier days.

"I lost my littermates in the fire, but I have an older brother. He, uh... er," Raspypaw stuttered when Horsetail suddenly strode out of his den.

"He is not here," Horsetail announced in a silencing voice and the clearing became clear. But Featherpaw just dug into her prey exchanging a confused glare with Coldpaw. *What were they hiding?*

Thanks for reading. Again, CeRosette wrote some of the chapter. Kudos to her.

Chapter 13

Allegiances
Clan cats-

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown tabby furred Tom and medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Redflight- a ginger tom furred Tom with Amber eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shystar- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes.

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Apprentices:

Raspypaw- a lean ginger tabby furred tom with Amber eyes.

Darkpaw- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Coldpaw- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Spiderpaw- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow.

Icypaw- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Vulturepaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Swiftpaw- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Leapingpaw- a lean cream tom with long legs.

Softpaw- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Patchedpaw- A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye.

Nightpaw- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Featherpaw- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Voidpaw- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Cinderpaw- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Rogues:

Lost- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

A series of coughs in the den kept everyone awake. Raspypaw wasn't faring well through the night, and if he couldn't sleep, no one could.

"Raspypaw, come on. Let's get you to Horsetail," Coldpaw requested seeing that no cat wanted to get out of their nest or make him go away. Raspypaw nodded and heaved himself up shakily, he had gotten much worse and he eyes were misty and his red ginger pelt was shaken and ruffled. His scent was mingled with something Coldpaw had smelt amongst other rogues commonly, disease.

"Get to Horsetail, now. Coldpaw we have to move everyone... hurry tell Horsetail... NOW," Dapplestone ordered loudly waking others around her in a panic.

Coldpaw got Raspypaw and of the den and across camp. By the time they reached his den the old tom was up and Raspypaw had scrambled to the medicine den filled with herbs. Coldpaw waited

outside listening to Horsetail's muffled and panicked words but Raspypaw was still silent.

In a few moments he was out of the den and before Coldpaw with serious eyes. He took a breath and motioned toward the den.

"Dapplestone, is already moving everyone, correct?" Horsetail questioned calmly.

"Yes, to the other dens," Coldpaw began but Horsetail quickly wrinkled his nose and looked at the cats moving to the next.

"I need you, Coldpaw, to watch the cats. If another cat were to have a cough send them to Raspypaw quickly. If another cat were to try to persecute their sick clanmates, send them to me quicker. This indeed, Coldpaw, is another test given by Lightclan alone. If you've done what I say, you shall pass," Horsetail explain in a hushed voice. Coldpaw look to him and back at the other cats who exchanged worried or annoyed glances.

"Go now," Horsetail ordered before returning to aid Raspypaw. Coldpaw then returned to the new den in which Dapplestone and Softpaw were helping quickly prepare.

"What'd he say, what's wrong?" Icypaw quickly asked, followed by every cat's attention. Coldpaw gulped and widened her eyes.

"He didn't say anything. He was to didturbed," Coldpaw lied softly averting her eyes from Icypaw. She couldn't lie to her friend, not again.

"It's Whitecough. I've seen it before, in my old clan," Dapplestone interrupted and the Warriors all widened their eyes and swallowed. Vulturepaw looked confused but Dapplestone answered his gaze.

"Whitecough, its a cough that can infect us all. And kill us all, if not treated right," she replied quietly and many mouths gaped.

"If anyone has a cough, or feels sick, they need to go to Horsetail, immediately," Shystar ordered and Voidpaw growled at her tone.

"Who made you in charge?" Spiderpaw cornered and the she cat

narrowed her eyes.

"Starclan," Shystar replied with a smirk but Voidpaw growled again and stepped forward.

"We don't follow Starclan. We follow Lightclan," Voidpaw retorted and Frostycloud chuckled.

"Same thing," Frostycloud spat.

"No it's not. They wouldn't have allowed all this to happen!" Vulturepaw fought back with a fire in his eyes. Dapplestone in a flash had left and Patchpaw, noticing her distress, left following her.

"Shut up, all of you," Swiftpaw growled and sat in her nest all worked up.

"Go to sleep, now," Leapingpaw said before trying to comfort Swiftpaw. The two fell asleep together, tail and tail, as mates do. Shystar trotted out of camp and toward the cave.

When her feet hit the cool stone, she burst into tears over the nearest puddle. It hasn't rained let, the stream that came from the mountaintop filled the caves hallows and caverns before trailing down hill.

"Rockdust... I'm sorry. I can't, I won't," Shystar sobbed when the dream cat came back to her.

"Shystar, you must keep the prophecy. Don't let the darkness resurface," the cat from Lightclan reminded her. Shystar scowled and pushed away the tears.

"Fine," she hastily replied and ran back to camp. They couldn't expect anything, the stakes were too high.

Meanwhile Patchedpaw tried to go back to sleep, in the stress filled environment when his sister came to sit by him. Softpaw was a small cream she cat that never bothered anyone. She happened to be from a different litter than Patchedpaw but they were brought up by the same Twoleg.

"Patchedpaw, it's almost morning an I can't sleep. Can we go hunting?" Softpaw asked quietly. Patched noticed her anxiety and nodded his head in reply.

After they were far enough from camp Softpaw's face turned to panic and she exchanged a grim glance. Softpaw then darted behind a bush, followed by Pathedpaw.

"You didn't want to hunt, did you?" Patchedpaw questioned curiously and Softpaw nodded. Her eyes turned misty then she burst into tears.

"I don't know what to do," Softpaw muttered in a sob and Patchedpaw narrowed his eyes in confusion. "Patchedpaw... I'm having kits."

"What? Whose?" Patchedpaw instantly asked and Softpaw tried to compose herself.

"I, ah... it was a moon ago. He said he...had changed," Softpaw cried before then turned into ugly gasps for breath.

"Who?" Patchedpaw pried but she shook her head as if she were afraid.

"I can't.. he told me not to tell," Softpaw whimpered and Patchedpaw grimaced at his young sister being a mother. She was so young.

"Tell them it's a rogue, from the city, if they ask the father. No ones going to hate you but you can't be a warrior if your delivering in a moon," Patchedpaw explained making Softpaw sob harder. "I'll get to the bottom of this. I promise."

By the time Softpaw and him got to camp it was morning. Patchedpaw had barely managed to catch a mouse while Softpaw came back empty handed. Horsetail watched the two as they came into the came and he beckoned Softpaw with his tail.

"May I speak with you, Softpaw?" Horsetail asked from across camp, making Voidpaw and Icypaw turn their heads. She silently nodded sending one last glance back to her brother before heading into the

den.

Patchedpaw felt clueless at what to do with the information Softpaw gave him. Suddenly a cat came up behind him and he turned to see Dapplestone grinning wide.

"That's a nice catch," she said and Patchedpaw became flustered. His mouse wasn't tiny but it wasn't enough to be complimented on.

"So how long before," Patchedpaw began when Dapplestone swiftly cut him of as she touched her tail to his shoulder.

"We'll be mates soon, Patchedpaw," she purred and Patchedpaw gulped at her attractive tone.

"I meant, how long before the warrior ceremony?" He said and she have a surprised look and laughed.

"That's soon also. Come with me, and I'll help you prepare for both," she replied in another purr leading him out of camp with a swing of her hips. Patchedpaw had never met a she cat more lovely, and wanting him at the same time. He followed her out in a prowl not paying attention to the growl across camp.

Vulturepaw knew exactly of Patchedpaw's and Dapplestone's intentions and it disgusted him. How could he exploit her love like that? Vulturepaw knew deep down that she would've never loved Patchedpaw if she hadn't lost Thunderstar or Tulip.

"How could she be with that filthy mangy, pelted, piece of crowfood," Vulturepaw mumbled with a hiss, ignorant of a cat nearby. Featherpaw had a smirk on her face as she pranced toward Vulturepaw.

"I heard about how your views have changed on kittypets and Twolegs, and I wanted to congratu." Featherpaw said before Vulturepaw stepped forward and cut her off quickly.

"My views are Twolegs are the same. They are horrible creatures that don't care for cats," Vulturepaw corrected with a prideful gleam in his eyes. Nightpaw laying down, nearby, heard and immediately grimaced.

"I'm sorry Vulturepaw, because your wrong. But I'd be happy to take you back and show you myself if that's what it takes," Featherpaw replied making Nightpaw jump to her paws in panic. Vulturepaw on the other hand ginned and shrugged.

"Sure. I'd be happy to prove you wrong," Vulturepaw said calmly and Nightpaw shook her head at him. He wasn't looking and obviously knew what they'd find if they went their together, but Featherpaw couldn't know.

"Featherpaw, no. Forget about it," Nightpaw demanded in a loud almost yell. Featherpaw looked at her in hurt and confusion.

"No! I make my own choices, Nightpaw. And I'm not going to let him walk around and say all these awful things that he doesn't even know about!" Featherpaw yelled violently leaving the den in a hurry.

"If you leave, I'm telling Spiderpaw," Nightpaw threatened an Featherpaw narrowed her eyes. For the first time, Nightpaw had seen a truly hostile side of Featherpaw, and she wished it didn't have to be that way.

"Leave him out of it!" She yelled back digging her claws into the ground.

"What's going on?" Darkpaw interrupted as he returned with Cinderpaw and Swiftpaw from what looked to be, a run.

"Nothing," both she cats snapped back in sequence. Darkpaw shared a grim glance with Cinderpaw before they retreated to the side of camp. Swiftpaw on the other hand knew it was nothing and was determined to break it up.

"Ever since we came here you've always been on his side instead of mine!" Featherpaw accused viscously making Nightpaw withdraw in anger.

"I wouldn't have had to if you didn't act like such a kit all the time! Everyone can tell your Kittypet! At least I tried not to be!" Nightpaw fought back with a hiss. By this time both she cat's pelts were raised

high and they would've fought if it weren't for other Clanmates.

"Stop! You're both being ridiculous. You're lucky Horsetail isn't here or you both would probably take losses from it!" Swiftpaw said loudly, stepping between the two she cats. Featherpaw lowered her pelt and made for the nearest den while Nightpaw turned and headed for the forest, followed by Vulturepaw.

It wasn't long before Nightpaw had groomed her dark black pelt to where if it was night, it would gleam blue. Soon she began hunting again, accompanied by Vulturepaw who was more silent than ever.

Nightpaw easily stalked a young rabbit as it hopped along its path. She wasted no time and quickly and irrationally pounced, but still succeeded in the end. With a rabbit in her jaws, she joined Vulturepaw who had caught a nice sized crow.

"I'm sorry about earlier. I did not intend for her to get angry. I thought showing her, her Twolegs was the right option but, now I know, she's not strong enough," Vulturepaw said apologetically and Nightpaw just growled.

"She's the one who dragged me here. I'm her best friend and she gets angry because I...."

"You what?" Vulturepaw urged calmly. Nightpaw turned and looked the young tom in the eyes and took a breath.

"I, like you," Nightpaw whispered in reply. Vulturepaw shared no expression when he leaned forward and touched noses with her. It was a moment of serene bliss for both of them. Then suddenly Vulturepaw jerked back with wide eyes and looked away.

"We shouldn't... we need to get the prey back," he replied moving going to pick it up when she intercepted him and stole it with her paw. Nightpaw grinned playfully at Vulturepaw sending chills down his spine.

"I'm sure they have enough prey at camp," Nightpaw assured before brushing her tail against Vulturepaw's cheek.

"Later, tonight," Vulturepaw whispered and Nightpaw nodded her

head then took the rabbit and ran back to camp. Vulturepaw took his crow and smiled at his dreams about to be fulfilled.

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting!

Chapter 14

Allegiances
Clan cats-

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Redflight- a ginger furred tom with amber eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shystar- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes.

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Riverkit- gray blue furred she kit with white tipped pass and tail. She has green eyes.

Apprentices:

Raspypaw- a lean ginger tabby furred tom with Amber eyes b

Darkpaw- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Coldpaw- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Spiderpaw- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow.

Icypaw- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Vulturepaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Swiftpaw- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Leapingpaw- a lean cream tom with long legs.

Softpaw- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Patchedpaw- A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye.

Nightpaw- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Featherpaw- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Voidpaw- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Cinderpaw- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Rogues:

Lost- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Two days before the third and final full moon, the camp was thrown into chaos. The camp had so much prey that everyone had filled themselves fully and not cared to hunt except to prove oneself to Horsetail.

Horsetail however was not looking just at hunting alone and wished to seek advice from a leader, but without one, he had to confide in close warrior raised cats. He chose only Raspypaw and Dapplestone for this, seeing that he did not know what clan Shystar and Frostycloud had come from, or what laws they lived by. Out of the rogues, he chose Coldpaw, perhaps the oldest and wisest at about 26 moons, to also confide in.

"What did you wish to speak with me about?" Dapplestone asked calmly and Coldpaw just listened contently. Horsetail let her question float in their minds as he led them toward an area he'd hope they wouldn't be followed to.

"I needed guidance and I trust you three to guide me correctly. As you know, the Warrior Ceremony is in three days. We need to make the final decisions," Horsetail said making Coldpaw widen her eyes. As was so thankful she was given this honor.

"Raspypaw, I've afraid your brother has not finished teaching you and has not returned. So although your skill is great, you will not be given your name. Not yet," Horsetail explained and Raspypaw nodded humbly with a hint of sorrow.

"Coldpaw, you will be made a warrior. Along with many others who've proven myself. I just have one question. Raspypaw, is following the warrior code by not receiving his name because he is not yet twelve moons, it is not said word for word. Although, Lightclan would not appreciate us twisting it to allow younger warriors to take the spots of older warriors. My question is, do we deny those below twelve moons or do we treat those as they have worked?"

"Of course not. We have to treat them as they've hunted and learned," Dapplestone replied hastily. Coldpaw knew the she cat was mother to Vultureclaw and assumed her advice would be bias.

"But at the same time, maybe the cats belong 12 moons aren't mature enough," Coldpaw cornered making everyone raise their eyebrows. "I'm not talking about you Raspypaw, but have we seen anything but immaturity from Vulturepaw. Softpaw is not as such and neith.."

"Softpaw cannot become a Warrior. She is with kits, from the Twolegplace," Horsetail said heavily while Coldpaw gasped.

"Nevermind her. Vulturepaw has been perfectly mature and is well ready to become a warrior. His hunting skills are superb and," Dapplestone began defensively and Coldpaw snorted and cut her off.

"His character is faulted! He has been nothing but prejudice and disrespectful to his clanmates. I've seen it!" Coldpaw said with a scowl.

"She's just spreading lies so that little rogue Darkpaw will get his name," Dapplestone scowled ad Coldpaw turned on her in a snap.

"Don't you dare say anything against Darkpaw! Without him we wouldn't be here!" Coldpaw sneered and Horsetail had had enough.

"Both of you, get back to camp," Horsetail ordered and Coldpaw shot Dapplestone a hateful glare before bounding off. When they had gone Raspypaw shifted his paws and looked toward Horsetail.

"Do you think he'll come back? Redflight?" Raspypaw asked with a croak and gloomy eyes. Horsetail looked at the young tom and gave him a sympathetic glance.

"Yes. Lightclan has said it so. But when, is unknown," Horsetail replied before glancing around. "Lightclan tells me there will be a division of the clan into three clans. I fear that if I try to prevent it, I will only make it worse," he said to Raspypaw and the young tom just listened quietly.

"To decide who shall become a warrior... how about one more test? How about make them each submit a law that they believe the clan should have?" Raspypaw proposed and Horsetail widened his eyes in surprise.

"That's a brilliant idea, we need to tell them at once. Race back to camp and tell them to stop sending our patrols for the day and that a precursor clan meeting shall occur," Horsetail ordered and Raspypaw nodded and darted off.

By the time Horsetail made it back, most of the clan was below and eager. Coldpaw sat in the corner next to Spiderpaw and Darkpaw. Dapplestone lay next to Patchedpaw sharing a squirrel while Vulturepaw and Nightpaw shared a Crow across camp. Horsetail had noticed how close certain cats had become and wasn't surprised if by leaf-bare, there were three new litters.

"All cat gather in the camp clearing. I have news," Horsetail echoed as he jumped onto the broken log which served as a place for a leader to conduct ceremonies and announce news.

"Before the warrior ceremony in two nights.. I need each warrior to submit two laws that you would suggest to the clan. These laws could become the new warrior code," Horsetail announced so that every cat heard clearly. They didn't say anything to him in reply, yet instead started to exchange these with their clan mates.

Nightpaw, who had finished her Crow with Vulturepaw looked up at him curiously. He looked back at her with a expressionless face before saying anything.

"He's getting on my nerve. With all these tests," Vulturepaw murmured sourly before dishing off the prey toe side. Nightpaw looked down at her paws.

"You know he just wants the best for the clan," Nightpaw soothed quietly and Vulturepaw frowned. His frowned eventually turned in a laugh.

"Horsetail is deep down a Queen! All he cares about is keeping peace when we should be preparing for battle and expanding boarders. He's trying to keep cats ignorant for peace, and it's disgusting," Vulturepaw spat before stalking off into the den. Nightpaw grimaced and looked around sharing glanced with Cinderpaw, who picked himself up and strode over.

"Hey, have you thought of your laws yet? I'm clueless," Cinderpaw laughed sitting next to the she cat. She looked down and then back at the dark silver furred tom.

"No but I don't think we can help each other, either way," Nightpaw replied making Cinderpaw nod understandingly. Then the tom strode off toward Icypaw without another word.

"That was awkward," Nightpaw murmured under her breath. During this, she spotted Featherpaw exchanging words with Spiderpaw. Every few seconds she's send a glare toward her then turn back toward Spiderpaw. After a while of this, Nightpaw became fed up

and gladly stalked over to Featherpaw to share choice words.

"Why are you acting like this?" Nightpaw growled. Before Featherpaw could even stand or respond, Spiderpaw jumped up and in front of of Featherpaw.

"Stay away! Go back to your Vulture!" Spiderpaw hissed in a low threatening whisper. Nightpaw stood back when Cinderpaw swooped in and started to talk to Spiderpaw.

"Listen, they need to make up on their own," Cinderpaw whispered but Spiderpaw pushed past him and started to size up Nightpaw.

"She's with him, so give it up Cinderpaw. She's probably going to have ki," Spiderpaw started with gritted teeth when Featherpaw suddenly made her move.

"Please, stop already!" Featherpaw shouted and her brother walked back toward her. His face was exhausted and annoyed.

"Are you going to let every cat push you around your whole life?" Spiderpaw asked and Featherpaw gasped.

"It's my life and I am perfectly able to take care of myself," Featherpaw replied before storming off, followed by Darkpaw.

Nightpaw glanced awkwardly at the remaining toms then walked back toward the den. The day's events had exhausted her and she needed to complete the last task if she ever wanted to become a warrior.

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting!

Chapter 15

Allegiances
Clan cats-

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Redflight- a lean ginger tabby furred tom with amber eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shystar- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes.

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Kits:

Riverkit- gray blue furred she kit with white tipped pass and tail. She has green eyes.

Apprentices:

Raspypaw- a lean ginger furred tom with Amber eyes.

Darkpaw- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Coldpaw- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Spiderpaw- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow.

Icypaw- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Vulturepaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Swiftpaw- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Leapingpaw- a lean cream tom with long legs.

Softpaw- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Patchedpaw- A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye.

Nightpaw- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Featherpaw- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Voidpaw- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Cinderpaw- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Rogues:

Lost- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

No cat could sleep going into the day of the Warrior Ceremony. Horsetail announced that night that he would conduct the ceremony at the touch of first moonlight, and that the cats could do whatever they pleased in their free time. Horsetail watched many pairs take up the offer including Dapplestone and Patchedpaw, Swiftpaw and Leapingpaw, and Vulturepaw and Nightpaw.

Darkpaw woke far too late, troubled with thoughts, and decided to reside in camp the day and learn what more he could learn about clan life, since he would be joining it. He joined Cinderpaw, Icypaw, Softpaw, Frostycloud and Shystar, that morning and they

each ate as the she cats told stories about their life.

"I was half-clan and half-rogue, so I understand what it is like for many o you coming here. When cats called me dirt-blood, I didn't quite know where I belonged," Shystar said getting attentive glances from each cat.

"And they still let you become leader?" Cinderpaw questioned curiously. Shystar nodded in reply.

"I was made deputy, after the betrayal a warrior named Sprucestrike. He was later banished from the clan. When Purestar lost his ninth life I went from Shymask to Shystar," Shystar finished, taking another bite into her mouse. Darkpaw nodded understandingly, but still very curious about all the positions in a clan.

"Shymask? Was that really your warrior name?" Icypaw asked in a joking way, yet Shystar didn't look amused.

"Haven't you noticed she's shy?" Frostycloud asked sarcastically makin Shystar grin a bit. Icypaw would've never picked her out as shy. Maybe as quiet and reserved, but not shy.

"Who knows? Maybe you'll be named Icyvoice or Icyface?" Shystar laughed, getting a few laughs with her. Frostycloud suddenly stood as a thought came to her and had to calm down before beginning.

"I've always wondered, does Star-I mean Lightclan really tell you what to name the warrior or do you decide yourself?" Frostycloud asked Shystar referring to her former leadership days. The she cat grinned and Darkpaw narrowed his eyes. Wouldn't Lightclan tell him?

"Starclan didn't speak to us toward the end of our days very much. They just faded away and the prophecies stopped. I once had a few times where I knew it was their soul name but rarely," Shystar replied with quieter voice. It was obvious the humor was over and so were their meals. Darkpaw and Cinderpaw decided to join Featherpaw, Coldpaw, and Spiderpaw down by the lake.

It was high noon when they had raced down the hill and finally touched the shores of the lake. Coldpaw laid in the nice shade against cool stones, her pelt untouched by the lake. On the other hand, Featherpaw and Spiderpaw were wading out into the lake at an attempt to cool off from the intense Summer heat. Both dark black pelts glimmered against the sunlight as it clashed with the droplets of water on their pelts.

Cinderpaw wasted no time diving into the lake, seeing that his pelt was longer and thicker. Darkpaw on the other hand joined Coldpaw in the shade and laid down, not wanting to have to groom his pelt later.

"Oh, so *Tide* isn't going to go swimming?" Coldpaw challenged using Darkpaw's old rogue name. He flinched then it turned into a low chuckle.

"Our names don't have to suit us. Do you like telling *lies*?" Darkpaw challenged in reply. Coldpaw batted him playfully and grinned.

"I'll go in if you do. Maybe I'll have to start calling you *Kittypet*," Coldpaw joked and Darkpaw scoffed.

"I look nothing like one. Cinderpaw does though," Darkpaw chuckled remembering how the rogue tom was so concerned for his image. Coldpaw snickered and looked a him with wide crimson eyes.

"Darkpaw, I wanted to ask you," Coldpaw began but was interrupted when Featherpaw dash onto the shore and tried to drag the tom in.

"Come swimming, Darkpaw!" The others called and Coldpaw, internally huffed, then nodded.

"Not until this old grump does," Darkpaw replied playfully, tackling Coldpaw until she fell past the stones and into the water. Coldpaw, not dropping from head to toe, cursed and stood in the shallow cold water. Darkpaw went in after was shocked at how good the water felt against his pelt. He remembered swimming once as a kit before but not where or when. Besides his pelt, that must've been why his

rogue name was Tide.

After a long time of splashing around then laying on the rocks, they quickly headed back to camp at the last light of the day. The journey back was quiet and determined as they took a steady, but quick pace back. On the way they passed Voidpaw whom had just caught a Crow, which would be her final catch of the day.

Every cat was in the clearing as the moonlight filled the air. In the time they waited for Horsetail to come out of his den, each cat groomed themselves and tried to look as pleasant as possible. Voidpaw and Icypaw whom had each gone hunting dropped their prey in the piles and sat down right as Horsetail emerged.

The old tom looked better then he'd had before. His tabby brown pelt was groomed to where minimal hairs stuck out and his eyes were less crazed then usual. It seemed as if he had actually eaten something.

"Raspypaw, are all cats accounted for?" Horsetail asked and Raspypaw nodded swiftly as the other cats shifted their paws uncomfortably. Horsetail climbed on top of the log to where he was above and he took in the calmness once more before he began.

"You has each been waiting for this night, for three nights and your lives. Many of you didn't belong or want to belong in the lives you used to have. This full moon, we shall change that with a new code, new cats to install them. First the warrior code," Horsetail said causing s few to groan at the fact that'd have to wait longer to hear whether they'd become warriors or not.

"Anyone can propose a law, but no one is required. Although to lead you must agree with the law," Horsetail said before glancing over the cats.

"Horsetail, can I start it off?" Vulturepaw asked from the south of the clearing. Horsetail nodded and the tom stepped up. Vulturepaw, groomed and fed, his dark gray tabby pelt shimmered against the moonlight and his striking yellow eyes pierced all he gazed upon.

"I propose, that if a cat joins a clan, they must have majority,"

Vulturepaw said sounding quite fair for once. Many nodded except Shystar scowled at the thought. Many rogues and kittypets were looked upon as filth by warrior born cats. Without leader's decisive actions, who would accept a mangy rogue?

"Very well done. I do believe Dapplestone, you asked to propose one," Horsetail said moving the discussion along throughly.

"Queens, or nursing mothers, shall take more of a leadership role when it comes to the well being of the young cats of the clan," Dapplestone said getting approving nods from her fellow she cat clanmates. The toms, seemed to care less. Soon the laws were moving along quickly and nicely.

Swiftpaw had suggested that deputy of the clan coordinates patrols so that cats are using time efficiently. Voidpaw suggested that before a cat can become deputy, they must kill an eagle and have at least one apprentice. And Cinderpaw proposed that an apprentice, from there on out, must have a warrior mentor to guide and teach them. Featherpaw proposed that for any patrol too far from camp, at least five warriors must be on it.

Darkpaw felt his pelt become warm with the pressure to say his law but he didn't know how cats would react. He had put so much thought into it an couldn't think of a better law.

"All stray kits, hungry rogues, and lonely kittypets shall be offered the life of a warrior, every six moons," Darkpaw said before swallowing and sitting back down.

"That ridiculous! Give them spots as warriors, deliberately?" Vulturepaw sneered making Darkpaw narrow his eyes at the tom.

"We were the same. If it weren't for Raspypaw, I wouldn't be here. Neither would half the clan. More cats need a chance like Raspypaw gave us," Darkpaw defended making Horsetail observe with deeper interest. Vulturepaw gave a scoff showing he didn't quite care whether or not they were here.

"What if they hurt the clan?" Dapplestone interjected suddenly stepping up for Vulturepaw's law. Darkpaw looked down then

continued.

"You only ask those under 18 moons. No cat that young is willing to take on a whole cat in by themselves."

"I like that one," Coldpaw murmured to Icypaw who sat beside her, attentively. "All future apprentices, need to be trained in battle so that they are prepared for any threat they come to face," Coldpaw declared and received many approving nods yet Horsetail was a bit edgy on it.

"Good, all of these laws. Very good. We will have time to sort them out, but first we have a Warrior Ceremony to conduct." Horsetail announced before continuing. "All of you have shown great strength, loyalty, and pride toward the Clan life. Step forward, Coldpaw." The she cat was shocked at her name being called first but steadily stepped forward. Coldpaw was the largest she cat in the clan despite Shystar and Dapplestone.

"Coldpaw, you are the oldest and perhaps wisest rogue to have join us. You have earned your clanmate's favor along with Lightclan's favor. Coldpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code an..."

"I do," she replied almost immediately.

"Then your warrior name shall be Coldlies. Lightclan honors your hardwork and sacrifice," Horsetail said before looking toward the next cat.

"Swiftpaw, step forward," Horsetail said and the she cat was already there and had a calm and contained expression. "Kittypet toward warrior you have become a true hunter and perhaps one of the best of the clan. You consistency has had no match and your friendship has expanded to every cat wanting it. Do you promise to uphold the warrior code?"

"I do," Swiftpaw replied with a nod.

"Then your warrior name shall be Swiftfawn. Lightclan honors your hardwork and sacrifice," Horsetail said when he moved on to Darkpaw.

"Nevertheless a rogue, Lightclan chose you to lead cats here and to do more in the future. You have represented what it is the be a warrior in your friendships and your work. Do you promise to uphold the warrior code?"

"I do," Darkpaw replied solemnly in a deep voice. Horsetail grinned and continued.

"Then you shall be known as Darktide. Lightclan honors your hardwork and sacrifice," Horsetail said once more and beckoned Spiderpaw forward.

"Spiderpaw, you came to us unsure and doubtful yet now you are ready to bear this title with pride. Do you promise to uphold the warrior code?"

"I do," Spiderpaw replied a bit flustered in his response.

"Then you shall be known as Spiderfang. Lightclan honors your hardwork an sacrifice," Horsetail repeated then called several others forward. Cinderpaw became Cinderstorm. Icypaw became Icywind. Leapingpaw become Leapinghare. And Featherpaw became Feathershade. They all had similar words and such but they were all expected.

"Voidpaw, step forward." Many gasped at the youngest she cat, being made a warrior. Only ten could be made warriors, is what Horsetail as said previously. Vulturepaw laughed inside while Horsetail continued the ceremony. He was confident he would be the last cat and if so Patchedpaw and his mangy Kittypet sister would not get their warrior names.

"I do," Voidpaw said with such excitement.

"Then your warrior name shall be Voidfur. Lightclan honors you hard work and sacrifice," Horsetail finished. Vulturepaw was already stepping to the front when Horsetail said a name that was not his.

"Patchedpaw, step forward. You've hunted well and," Horsetail began but was so loudly interrupted.

"Him? A warrior! Is this a joke Horsetail?" Vulturepaw yelled in a viscous laugh. Dapplestone gasped and sent a stern glade toward him. Instead he just continued.

"That Kittypet would be better roadkill, then a warrior!" Vulturepaw sneered before stalking off into the woods. Other cats were astonished that Vulturepaw had finally revealed his true side but others looked as if they agreed. Why should Patchedpaw be made a warrior before Raspypaw, Nightpaw, or Vulturepaw? Coldpaw thought silently recognizing that the three were better hunters than Patchedpaw and spent more time working toward what they wanted.

"I'm afraid I've told you all a terrible lie on my part. To bring out your true sides, I gave you several tests that were psychological lies. The first being that only ten could become warriors, when that was false. You all deserve and have earned warrior names no matter what age or where you came from. The second lie I told you was that Raspypaw had Whitecough. I thought the threat of death and disease would send many of you scrambling but due to your mere lack of disease, I'm afraid that was useless. And the third and final, there was a most dedicated leader to this clan. He was brother to Raspypaw, named Redflight. He was determined to renew the clans but not willing to confront the rogues and kittypets that had once turned him away. So after he earned his warrior name a moon before all of you came, he set off in search of more warriors that may have survived the fire, and more clans," Horsetail explained throughly as many cats sat with gaped mouths.

"Redflight is destined to be the leader of the first clan, but only if he fulfilled a prophecy given to him. I'm afraid, Vulturepaw took his naming far too seriously and shall be named if he returns. Dapplestone, will you see to it that he does." Dapplestone bounded off after her son while many cats exchanged worried whispers about all the information that was just exchanged.

"So I am getting my warrior name?" Patchedpaw asked hopefully and Horsetail nodded and finished the words and the oath.

"I do," Patchedpaw replied a bit flustered at the attention he had received.

"The you shall be known as Patchedfur. Starclan honors your hard work and sacrifice. Nightpaw, will you step forward," Horsetail continued and the she cat stepped up. Nightpaw's pelt shimmered as a dark black and blue but her eyes were clouded with new found worry.

"Nightpaw, you doubted your life here when you first came yet now you are sure. Do you promise to uphold the warrior code?" Horsetail asked and Nightpaw looked at her paws, a bit flustered.

"I do," she said making Horsetail grin.

"Then from this day forward you shall be known as Nightsky. Lightclan honors your hard work and sacrifice," Horsetaik finished before glancing toward Softpaw.

"Softpaw, although quiet and grateful, your hunting has been great as you catch prey easily with your patient small steps. Do you promise to uphold the warrior code?"

"I do," Softpaw replied quietly with a smile that she was finally getting her name when she expected not to.

"Then you shall be known as Softstep. Lightclan honors your hard work and sacrifice. Raspypaw, step forward," Horsetail said making the tom cough in surprise.

"I know your brother wanted to see this day come, yet you have fully earned it. Do you promise..."

"Yes, I do," Raspypaw spat out hastily and Horsetail laughed.

"From this day forward you shall be known as Raspyhowl. Lightclan honors your hard work and sacrifice," Horsetail finished and at the end, each cat went around to congratulate each other. After a long time perched on the log, Horsetail made his way down and laid just outside his den.

Dapplestone returned later that night once all had gone to sleep, with Vulturepaw following. She told him quietly to go see Horsetail immediately then de herself went to sleep without another word. Vulturepaw prowled into the medicine cat's filthy den where

Horsetail sat awake.

"You have acted irrationally and inappropriately for who you are. I would've imagined your parents would've taught you better manners. But I supposed you took after Thunderstar's attitude and mere entitlement," Horsetail sneered and Vulturepaw lost whatever respect he had for the old oaf and bared his fangs.

"You know nothing of my father. He was a great leader," Vulturepaw snapped. Horsetail just snickered in reply.

"You forget I was from Skyclan too. Your father was deputy then, and a power-hungry one at that."

"Shut up about my father. Give me my warrior name or you'll regret it," Vulturepaw threatened in a snarl. Horsetail huffed.

"Although it displeasures me to do so I cannot deny what you have earned and what Lightclan has instructed me to do. From this day forward you shall be know as Vultureclaw. Don't fall from Lightclan's graces, for the penalty won't be desirable. Get out," Horsetail said in a harsh tone and Vultureclaw left with pleasure.

The night had not been what Vultureclaw expected and he had to change his plan. He had to focus or everything would fall out of place. Most of all Vultureclaw had to take revenge quietly, and in a way no one could know it was him. Instead of going to the den as Horsetail expected him to, he made his way back to the Twolegplace.

I hope you enjoyed the chapter. If I messed up or names at all, tell me. Otherwise that's all! :)

Chapter 16

[image]

Allegiances
Clan cats-

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Redflight- a ginger tabby furred tom with amber eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shystar- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes.

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean ginger tabby furred tom with Amber eyes.

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Coldlies- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Vultureclaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs.

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Patchedfur- A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye.

Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. She's a medicine cat apprentice.

Kits:
Riverkit- gray blue furred she kit with white tipped pass and tail. She has green eyes.

Rogues:

Lost- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Icywind woke in the middle of the night to a loud clash of thunder. The night was filled with a terrible storm that continued onto the

next day. The warriors den stirred with unrest. When morning came, it was drowsy and completely the opposite of the feelings the clan had the night before.

She exited the den quite late in the morning to find it was still drizzling and her other clanmates were still taking shelter. Icywind and Voidfur sat eyeing the center of the camp where Raspyhowl lay silently and wet as a fish.

"He's been out there all night. Feathershade and Darktide tried to convince him to come inside the den, but he wouldn't listen," Voidfur explained quietly to Icywind. She looked more closely and the tom looked in horrible state yet he was out there at his own will.

"Has Horsetail..?"

"No. I think he's too worn out from yesterday," Voidfur pointed out before she shrugged. "I wish we could train for battle or hunting. Spiderfang, Coldlies, and Darktide. I've never hunted in rain before." Icywind observed Voidfur's words with curiosity. The young black furred she cat thirsted to know of battle and strength for she had never experienced it before. Icywind on the other hand knew battle's importance yet ability to destroy.

"I agree. We should be training in not just hunting but battle too," Icywind added on eyeing the gray clouds that made a murky sky. The storm would not seize so why should they?

Icywind then took her steps out of the sheltered edge of the den and into the thick muddy camp. Her pure white pelt found itself quickly coated with thick layers of mud and Voidfur followed, her jet black fur also caked with mud. The two she cats headed down towards the lake, far too silently. They managed to dodge deep mud pits they would otherwise get caught in until they touched the soft slippery stones that lay on the shore of the lake.

The lake which was brilliantly glittering the day before, was not a murky muddled mess. Icywind glanced across and caught a glimpse of something strange. The distant figure of a cat watched from across. The cat was so far away that Icywind had barely made him

out.

"Do you see that?" Icywind murmured wondering if she was just imagining things. Voidfur looked toward the other shore and shrugged. What Icywind thought she saw was already gone but it still left her wondering, what else was across the lake.

"Icywind, I'm going to head back. The prey isn't detectable," Voidfur said and Icywind nodded.

"Alright. I'm going to take a walk and explore the lake a little," Icywind replied and they both separated their ways. The white furred she cat coroners along the shore. Her fur was damp and soaked do to the rain and her paws were a new shade of brown, caked with fresh mud as she took each new step. She thought of having to clean all the mud off and sighed. Maybe she'd convince Spiderfang to help later tonight.

As she crawled along the line of the shore the rain slowly became a slow drizzle. When Icywind came around the curve and was across the lake, a sharp howl filled the air and she gripped the ground in surprise. In the distance she could hear muddled orders and yelling.

In an instant she felt the threat of an ambush and quickly turned and attempted to run through the thick mud. The howls and other scents of cats were nearing and Icywind could not outrun them in the mud. She dove sideways into the swallow areas of the lake and waded to were a tree had fallen and now provided a watery shelter, that beavers and otters would use.

"She was here. I swear," a tom's voice muttered with a grunt. Icywind froze and forced herself to make as little notice as possible. Icywind could stand at her position in the lake but she still feared what she couldn't see.

"Are you sure she saw you, Lost?" Another cat muttered. The voice was so familiar that it made Icywind shiver at the thought.

"Yes... a white cat. Too small to be a tom," the cat named Lost replied. The toms seemed to wait and look around a bit longer before they continued to speak.

"Keep the land clear. That's your job. Don't let them see you or the others," the other tom replied and Icywind shook with chills. Although the water was chilling, it was the voice that was making her chill. The tom's voice was from long ago, from her life as a rogue.

"I have to go back to the city. You stay here and do as your told," the tom ordered fiercely before trotting off. Icywind shivered at a sudden thought that and to her, but just as quickly pushed it away. *It couldn't be...*

"Do as your *told*... listen to *leader*... That leader of his deserves FOX DUNG!" Lost screamed into the air and he fell in the mud, far too close to where Icywind waded, teeth clenched. The tom suddenly became quiet and Icywind dug her claws into the lake.

As the tom jumped in, Icywind dropped into the water with a large breath. By the time she resurfaced when she needed a breath, there was no sign of the tom. I need to get back to camp. She immediately thought as she crawled out of the den using a rotten branch for support when it broke. Her lower half felt and the old wood splintered against her leg. Icywind cursed and pressed past the muck and onto the stone shore. She felt the events of the cold day and started to shiver as she hobbled back to camp. On the way back she ran into Cinderstorm, Spiderfang and Coldlies, hunting in what most of the cats liked to all the Rabbit run. It was an area of pines that had barely any undergrowth or low branches. The non clumped distance allowed their to be dirt when it was dry.

"Iye, Iah, have to tell you someth," Icywind stumbled as she neared them then quickly shut her mouth. The clan never had to know, she could investigate it by herself. No one would get hurt.

"I, need help grooming. I slipped into the lake when hunting and... yeah," Icywind explained and Coldlies grinned.

"Hunting fish again?" She mocked and Icywind would've batted her if she could move better.

"Did you hurt your leg?" Spiderfang asked with a bit of concern. Icywing shook her head in a lie but Coldlies looked closer and

frowned.

"Horsetail should've named you Icylies, and me Coldwind," she said before helping the she cat limp back to camp.

Once Voidfur left Icywind she quickly veered left toward the park. Going hunting was only a ploy so she could sneak away and find Vultureclaw who had been passing messages to her through Nightsky. When she caught up with the tom after a sprint through the muddy forest, she broke into a slower pace and followed silently.

As Vultureclaw crept through the forest in the direction of the twolegplace, he wondered if this was a good idea. He seemed to be in hot water with Horsetail, and grimaced at the thought of the old oaf discovering his plans before they came to action. Vultureclaw didn't want anyone to foil his scheme, otherwise everything he had worked on would be for nothing.

As he stopped to get a drink of water from a stream, he thought he had heard a rustling in the trees above him. But when he stopped to listen, he heard nothing. Vultureclaw continued walking, but listened carefully for any more rustling from above. Randomly, he stopped, and heard another quick rustling before all was quiet. He looked into the canopy of trees, his keen, yellow eyes scanning for any movement, but he saw none.
And so he continued walking. He was close to the twolegplace now, only a few stream lengths before he reached his destination, and one of the final stages of his mission.

Above him, a tree limb snapped, as if something had misstepped. Too heavy to be a squirrel, but Vultureclaw had witnessed enough tree climbing to know that it could be a cat.
Looking up, he called out. Voidfur silently smiled as she tricked the tom ever so slyly. She was not in the tree at all and the rain was simply playing with him.

"Do you call that stealth?" He goaded, hoping to get a reaction. There was none, and so he broke into a run, dashing lightning-fast

around trees and shrubbery, hoping that eventually his pursuer would either quit or show themselves.

Vultureclaw chased his shadow, which swept in front of him like a blur, and listened. He could hear limbs snapping more frequently now.
Acting on a split-second decision, Vultureclaw stopped.

A small, black she cat with yellow eyes that rivaled his own in intenseness broke through the bushes and showed a gleaming grin. It was Voidfur. Vultureclaw frowned sternly and spoke.

"What are you doing here?" He questioned, "Spying for Horsetail?"

Voidfur shook her head and walked forward. She seemed not as usual. She was usually quiet to herself but now she showed something in her eyes that Vultureclaw on saw in powerful cats. Ambition. She spoke in a calm, yet cautious voice.

"Nightsky told me that you were gaining allies and making plans," She said calmly, "And if you're planning what I think you are, I want in,"

Vultureclaw looked the new warrior up and down and turned back on his course, but gestured for Voidfur to follow him with a flick of his tail.
Hesitant, Voidfur followed, wondering where they were going.

"Nightsky is not wrong; I am gathering true and loyal warriors. In fact, that is what I'm off to do right now," He said, and Voidfur's eyes widened in surprise.

"That's all very well but why bring other cats into it? You said it yourself, you despise cats without pure blood," She pressed, staying a few steps behind the monstrous, gray tom. She still didn't trust him completely from back when he had stolen her kill. He had apologized, but Voidfur knew that his apology had been a ploy to get the other cats to respect him. It would've worked on almost any other she cat but Voidfur was not any other she cat.

"I'm leaving the clan," Vultureclaw said, "I'm leaving the clan and

starting my own, on the other side of the lake."

"Good," Voidfur said, catching Vultureclaw by surprise, and she continued. "That's what I thought."

They didn't speak for a few minutes, and just continued silently onward to the twolegplace. Vultureclaw weighed Voidfur's answer. She had seemed loyal enough to the clan, and he was surprised at her readiness to join his. It was gutsy, dangerous even.
Finally, Vultureclaw spoke.

"We would be glad to have you," He said, and Voidfur smirked contently. She new that in whatever new clan Vultureclaw was forming, it would be different, there would be strength. They would probably be trained to fight, to defend themselves, and not sit around guarding borders and hunting all day. Horsetail's clan ideals had never sat very well with her. How could he make her, let alone any cat, a warrior based on their hunting skills and age.

Voidfur knew that killing a cat was far more different than killing a vole, and hated how Horsetail kept them from that fact. It was just recently that it hit hard with Voidfur when Horsetail admitted he had lied several times. He claimed they were tests from Lightclan but Voidfur recognized the truth. No matter how hard she worked, she wouldn't have become a warrior if Horsetail only allowed ten. He couldn't see passed age and stupid tests.

Looking ahead, she saw a light shine through the thicket of trees ahead. It was the light of a twoleg nest.

"Are you recruiting Kittypets?" She whispered incredulously, and Vultureclaw nodded, stepping out of the forest and onto the street.

"We are recruiting Kittypets and Rogues," He said, and ran down the street, dodging streetlights and all the while headed for the first twoleg nest.
Voidfur followed close behind, wondering what he saw.

Upon coming closer, she saw a white tom cat laying under the deck connected to the twoleg's nest. His fur was scraggly and gone in places, and his ribs stuck out. But he seemed large, and Voidfur

imagined having this rough-looking rogue in their curent clan. She shivered at the thought.
Vultureclaw, however, simply walked toward the cat. The white rogue saw him coming from across the street, but simply smiled a sharp-toothed smile and came forward. They met at the edge of the street on the rogue's side. Voidfur came forward as well, but stayed back aways.

"Vulturepaw," the cat said in a rough voice, "What brings you by?"

"I need you near the camp, Werner," Vulturepaw said, "And it's Vultureclaw now."

Werner, the white rogue, didn't seem surprised by the name change, but leaned forward when Vultureclaw mentioned their clan's camp. Voidfur wondered anxiously why Vultureclaw would need this rogue nearby.

"So soon?" Werner asked but quickly answered his own rhetorical question. "I'll be there as soon as I can. I've already taken a trip there, as you requested. And placed one of our rogues, but I guess we shall take permanent residence."
Vultureclaw thanked him, and was about to say something else when Werner noticed Voidfur.

"Who are you?" He asked. There was no lust in his eyes, nor any other ill look, he just seemed curious.

"I'm Voidfur," She didn't illiterate, she was too nervous.

"Anyway," Vultureclaw said, guiding Werner's attention back to him, "I'll need you to get the other rogues as well. Alan, Daren, Yule, Mittens and the others. They need to stay with you near camp at all times, in case I need to leave earlier than expected."

Werner nodded and said, "How close are we to stay? I thought that your clan-mates went hunting near camp. If they were to discover us..." The last part sounded almost like a threat, as if Werner and the rogues would hurt any other clan cats, or worse, if they were discovered.

Vultureclaw shrugged off the threat, however, and racked his brain for a place that his rogue army could stay. He knew that the patrols didn't go very far, per Horsetail's orders, but if one of the guards came across them his plans would be over before they even begun. Also, the thought of Nightsky or Dapplestone coming across them sent shivers down his spine.

"On the other side of the lake. No one goes there," Voidfur recommended and Vultureclaw nodded at the suggestion. *She is useful...* He made a mental note and turned back to Werner with a nod.

"You will stay on the other side of the Lake during the day," Vultureclaw instructed. "And may venture to the camp's side during the nighttime if the prey there pleases you,"

Werner nodded and asked more questions, most centered around the Lake's location and the patrol schedules.

Voidfur tuned it out. It amazed her how quickly Vultureclaw had found these rogues. She couldn't think of when he would have had the time to find them, except perhaps during the nights he wasn't tail and tail with Nightsky. Voidfur wondered how many other clan members knew of his plans. Nightsky knew, she had told Voidfur, but she wondered if any other clan members would be joining them.

Icywind perhaps, if persuaded. Spiderfang hated Vultureclaw along with Cinderstorm. Then after that there weren't many options except Leapinghare and Feathershade. Swiftfawn was too much of a rule follower to ever be in a clan without a prominent elder figure such as Horsetail. Voidfur thought about this for several minutes until it was time for them to depart.

"I thought you hated kittypets? And now, you're accepting them?" Voidfur questioned with a bit of caution since it was a touchy subject. She was once a Kittypet yet Vultureclaw accepted her.

"I accept warriors. True warriors. Kittypets that act as kittypets do not deserve their warrior names. Rogues that act like rogues do not deserve their warrior names. Our clan shall be of true Warriors that

fight under one leader's rule, for the clan. Not for some Lightclan that doesn't exist. Horsetail's lies are Lightclan," Vultureclaw spat in his final words and Voidfur listened. She was simply astonished at Vultureclaw's truth of word yet his eyes were filled with something that wasn't driven by passion but anger. Voidfur would make sure to stay away from that aspect of him but in the meantime she would become Vultureclaw's loyal friend, and Nightsky's. If Voidfur's own plan worked in harmony with Vultureclaw's, they could not be stopped.

When they did return to camp that night, the clan was silent with sleep. The storm that raged a day had finally left the skies yet the mood would fill the camp for a day or two.

Voidfur found her best quite welcoming and quickly fell asleep but Vultureclaw was stiff and awake with his thoughts. He glanced into the den and saw Nightsky sleeping utterly peaceful. Her dark pelt glittered against the tiny strand of moonlight that broke through the den. Vultureclaw couldn't have had a better plan.

Soon, in two or three moons, Nightsky and him would be rulers of their own clan and Vultureclaw's father's legacy would live on in him. Vultureclaw would avenge his father, by building the best and strongest clan that would ever live.

The picture attached to this chapter is a bit of scenic view of the forest they live in.

Chapter 17

Allegiances
Clan cats-

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Redflight- a red-ginger tom with amber eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shystar- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes.

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a red-ginger tom with Amber eyes.

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Coldlies- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Vultureclaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs.

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Patchedfur- A tom with cream fur, a few black patches and almost black eye.

Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray spotted "savannah" tom cat with grey eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. She's a medicine cat apprentice.

Kits:
Riverkit- gray blue furred she kit with white tipped pass and tail. She has green eyes.

Rogues:

Lost- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Werner- scrawny white furred tom.

Mittens- ragged white furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mother of Werner.

Darktide sat behind and watched as Coldies, Shystar, and Nightsky set out in the evening for a nighttime patrol. Horsetail, as usual was crunched somewhere in his damp dark den. This time he was treating Icywind who had scratched her leg down by the lake. The tom never liked to ask many questions, and didn't see any fault in her statement.

Coldlies, however kept telling Darktide how strange she had been acting. He didn't pay too much attention since she cats tended to exaggerate things out of proportion. To get her minds off of Icywind, Darktide recommended as should go on the nighttime patrol. Coldlies agreed, willingly, seeing that it was yet another way to prove her loyalty. She was always trying to score points toward her future. Soon they had departed leaving the clan a silent and serene evening.

Swiftfawn, Patchedfur, Softstep, Dapplestone and Leapinghare, were barely detectable as they shared a few rabbits caught the day before. Vultureclaw had disappeared to go hunting, Darktide suspected. Before long, another cat entered the clearing and Darktide smiled.

Feathershade made her way toward the pile with droopy eyes. She grabbed a mouse then sat against one of the three boulders in the middle of the camp. She started to nibble and barely noticed Darktide walk over.

"Are you alright?" He asked looking at her ruffled fur and despondent glance.

"Not really. No," Feathershade mumbled making Darktide take a double take. *Where was the cat he brought to the clans?* "I know. I look horrible. But it's been gloomy for s few days and no one's wanted to hunt with me. Me... being a Kittypet and all."

"Are you serious? I thought the clan was getting past this! You just got your warr," Darktide fought until she pushed the prey back and sat up. She sad nothing in a pause and looked at him with somber eyes.

"No one looks at us the same way. Sure, Patchedfur and

Dapplestone. That's great. But Softstep is always by herself. Leapinghare and Swiftfawn only rely on each other and I'm alone all day. The only person that talks to me anymore is Spiderfang at the end of the day. And do you know what he talks about? His best friends and clanmates," Featherpaw said looking straight into Darktide's eyes. He stood speechless and she scoffed and stalked away back into the den. Darktide just blinked and looked down. What did he not know?

"Hey Darktide, have you seen Icywind?" Frostycloud asked followed by Spidering and Cinderstorm. The three had just returned from a run but not of them showed exhaust.

"Euh, no. But wasn't she getting that cut treated?" Darktide asked and Spiderfang nodded and scampered off to the den. Frostycloud and Cinderstorm continued talking with Darktide about who won the race. Spiderfang stopped at the entrance of the medicine cat den and looked in.

"Icywind?" He called out curiously. Spiderfang didn't want to end up lectured by Horsetail so he made sure to be patient.

"I'm coming out," Icywind replied and she emerged scampering out of the den with a limp. She had a leaf covering where her leg was cut but her eyes were much more troubled.

"Where's Horsetail?" Spiderfang questioned curiously and Icywind shrugged.

"He fixed my leg then left. It was strange, he was telling me to stay there and rest when he froze. He said, 'I need to speak with Lightclan', and he dashed out to who knows where," she replied then her eyes darted to Spiderfang with urgency. "Oh no..."

"What! What is it?"

"I have to go, to the lake. Horsetail could be in trouble or the clan could," Icywind murmured limping swiftly toward the east. Spiderfang caught up with her and quickly blocked her path in confusion.

"You can't go! Your leg!" Spiderfang argued and she grunted realizing her defeat. Then a light returned and she shot her eyes toward Spiderfang.

"You go! Take another at and go southeast. Something is going on. I'll try to get the others to help find where Horsetail's scent leads!" Icywind ordered before darting off toward Swiftfawn and Leapinghare. Softstep ha already retired to the den but Patchedfur started to walk over.

"I'll go with you. Frostycloud and Darktide went to sleep. Cinderstorm is going to guard camp," Patchedfur replied calmly and Spiderfang has a curt nod.

"Let's go then," Spiderfang said and was about to dash out of camp when a voice stopped them.

"Wait, Patchedfur!" Dapplestone called out running after him. The tom smiled and glanced at his mate with admiring eyes.

"Please watch out. If there are any hostile cats, come back here. I need you... the kits need you," Dapplestone whispered with a smile and Patchedfur's mouth gaped open.

"I'm going to be a father?" He mumbled dumbfounded. Dapplestone just grinned as Spiderfang pulled the tom away.

"Come on," he urged and they ran out of camp quickly. Breaking through the forest they dashed up and over the undergrowth and over the fallen trees. Nothing stopped their speedy pursue to the lake.

It was night when they slowly reached the outskirts of the forest. They were about to bound onto the damp shore when a figure emerged. The tom cat was walking down the shore, his ears were alert and he was obviously guarding something.

Spiderfang slowly gestured Patchedfur, with his tail, to move east and the two toms slowly made their way there. The tom in the shore didn't notice and kept walking down in the midst of the moonlight. As Spiderfang led the way he stepped in something that

was not forest ground, and he looked down.

His paw was submerged in a rotting bird carcass. Spiderfang quickly removed his paw and sniffed the carcass affirming that it was rotten and a day or two old. The prey had a rogue scent mingled to it and Spiderfang knew no Warrior, would leave any prey to rot. He looked up for Patchedfur, but the tom was a few Branch-lengths away already. Spiderfang felt the urge to tell him to wait, but the rogue scents were growing stronger and taking the risk could be lethal. There came a point when the scents and voices became too overwhelming that Spiderfang stopped and panicked.

"Patchedfur," he whispered in a feeble attempt to pull the tom back. But it was useless since Patchedfur was already at the edge of a clearing, looking upon five to six cats. Spiderfang turned left a bit and neared closer, until he was under a bush's protection and close enough to distinguish the words of the cats.

"We've been here for two days! Tell us already," a large brown and white tabby bellowed at a tom only a tiny bit smaller than him. Spiderfang and Patchedfur instantly recognized Vultureclaw who looked to be losing his patience.

"I told you, they don't know," Vultureclaw replied and a large white she cat bursted forward. She carried longer ragged fur with sharper teeth that made her look more menacing than other cats.

"When will they know?" The she cat hissed flexing her long claws. "Or do they already know?"

"Enough Mittens! Let him speak," a scrawny white tom said in reply and Vultureclaw repositioned himself with a smug look. Spiderfang wanted to claw the tom's eyes out already, for whatever he was planning. Patchedfur exchanged an anxious glance with Spiderfang but they continued to observe.

"We'll attack on the next full moon. Horsetail will probably take cats to see Lightclan and the camp will be unguarded," Vultureclaw explained until a sharp howl of protest hit the air.

"I'm not waiting a moon! I need blood in my claws... now," a striped

tom blurted out making Patchedfur grip the ground and Spiderfang hiss silently. *They are not touching my clanmates*.. Spiderfang vowed.

"No worries, Lost. We'll have to change plans," a familiar voice called out making Vultureclaw frown and Spiderfang look toward where s small black she cat entered. Voidfur slinked into the clearing where other rogues examined her with a laugh.

"Is this your ally?" Mittens mocked causing Voidfur to laugh with her yellow eyes all lit.

"Why in fact, yes. You see without me, you wouldn't know that there's Kittypet scum watching right over there.."

The clearing of cats turned into chaos and Spiderfang closed his eyes as the cats all looked toward where Patchedfur lay hidden. The tom stood and attempted to run but the brown and white tabby grabbed his scruff and yanked him into the clearing. Vultureclaw sat with an enormous smirk across his face and Patchedfur looked up and grimaced.

"Is this one of the clan's kittypets?" Mittens asked coldly, glaring at Patchedfur for no remorse or care. Voidfur nodded and walked over to sit next to Lost. The tom kept his eyes trained on Patchedfur with intrigue.

"I'm not a Kittypet! I am a warrior," he defended standing tall on his paws. Mittens didn't change her expression but Werner, the scrawny white tom, did.

"Oh really," Werner challenged with a raised eyebrow.

"Yeah," Patchedfur replied bluntly and Werner just walked about.

"How could you be with my mother? She belonged to a pureblood, the strongest Warrior to ever live. She is his, until death," Vultureclaw said with an innocent expression, taking a few steps forward. Patchedfur didn't take any back because he was determined to prove his bravery.

"I'm afraid you're too young to understand that your mother has moved on," Patchedfur replied with a cold glance that he's never

put on before. Vultureclaw felt the glares of the rogues fall upon them and he swallowed. He couldn't fail.

"Lies. By a hopeless, mangy, kittpet.." Vultureclaw lured until Patchedfur slashed forward and the younger tom evaded and pushed Patchedfur to the ground. When Vultureclaw had him pinned, he felt a surge of reward flood him as the rogues laughed and cheered him onward.

"Your mother, won't forgive you. Not when her kits are featherless. Not when she has no one left," Patchedfur murmured under Vultureclaw's massive sharp claws. Vultureclaw laughed and reply and pressed they gently against his fur, pricking blood. The young tom's face actions turned from toying to angry in seconds. His face turned straight and his yellow eyes burned with resent and hatred.

"You call yourself a warrior?" Vultureclaw said before in one swift action, he slashed he claws down Patchedfur's neck. The life quickly drained out of Patchedfur, quite literally, as a pool of blood began to form around him.

Spiderfang bursted through the trees as next to the life that was once so alive. Patchedfur only had seconds, and although Spiderfang risked everything, he needed to be there for Patchedfur.

"Ta..tel..ll, Dap...lestone.... Iah," Patchedpaw struggled to murmur as his eyes dropped and his body went limp. Spiderfang, now exposed to the cats stood and faced Vultureclaw who was bristling with angry once again.

"Voidfur," he said and the she cat inspected the rest of the edge of the clearing until she gave the all clear. Vultureclaw then turned toward Spiderfang and laughed.

"How clever? How strong.. the once rogue, Spiderfang, wants to challenge us," Vultureclaw mocked and prepared to pounce on Spiderfang when Voidfur's scream split the air. The other rogues turned their faces just as three cats charged into the clearing.

A huge red tom charged and took Vultureclaw to the ground with a hostile growl. Vultureclaw also hissed and tried to push the tom off,

but they were equal in size and the red tom was advanced in battle. The two other warriors stood protectively around red tom, as they waited for orders.

"Let us go with the body, and you can go with your fur," the strange cat proposed. Vultureclaw hated to, but nodded compliantly. The rogues, Vultureclaw and Voidfur dashed off each at a time, toward the east while the new cats watched they run off.

"Riverkit, it's clear," a tan tom called out and a young light gray she kit came from the bushes. The kit stood close to Jaggedclaw with wide eyes. None of the toms bothered to protect the kit from the graphic and tragic death displayed before them.

"Are you alright? Spiderfang, correct?" The red tom asked calmly gesturing toward him. Spiderfang nodded and looked at the four cats.

"Who are you?"

"I'm Smoketalon, former warrior of an old clan," a dark gray tabby tom said introducing himself with a curt nod. "That's Flamepaw, and that's Sparrowpaw," Smoketalon said referring to two she cats. One had golden and red fur and the other had cream fur. Each had exotic flecks and looked to be sisters.

"I'm Jaggedclaw. That's Spottedpelt and this is my sister, Riverkit," the tan tom said beckoning toward first, a gray speckled tom with silver eyes and then a small kit with light gray fur and white tipped paws and ears. Spiderfang then looked toward the red tom, who had stunning Amber eyes and was muscular. The type of Tom that she cats would drool over.

"I'm Redflight."

"Wait.. you're Redflight? The Redflight?" Spiderfang asked turning his face back to the dark red tom. He nodded and looked around.

"Where is Raspypaw?" He asked immediately and the other cats shifted their paws. They all looked hungry and uncomfortable.

"Back at camp...Waiting for you," Spiderfang finally realized why

the young tom was despondent all that time.

"We have to go quickly. Smoketalon, would you help... Spiderfang carry... Patchedfur, back," Redflight said and Smoketalon nodded and Spiderfang ignored the pelt that may have rubbed onto his pelt. What was he going to tell Dapplestone? He should've done something.

"After Raspypaw became an apprentice and I a warrior, I had to go on a journey. To find the other survivors," Redflight explained quietly and they walked back to camp. Spiderfang nodded as he explained the long journey across the mountains and back to his old home, where few cats were left. Smoketalon had just been named a warrior before the fire desolated his clan. Flamepaw and Sparrowpaw were both kits at the time, but Smoketalon managed to save the sisters and their mother. Though their mother shortly died after they receive their apprentice names from Redflight. Jaggedclaw, Spottedpelt and Riverkit were in similar scenarios.

"The journey back was longer and coming back I was warned of many new warriors and a great threat coming among us. We just arrived this evening when we overhead that.. scrawny tom and that gray tabby talking about murdering Horsetail, if he didn't comply. We followed them here and that's where that happened. I'm sorry we couldn't help with Patchedfur, I didn't see it coming," Redflight said solemnly and Spiderfang nodded. The tom was not like the other warriors. He was calm and collected yet he seemed like a great friend.

"We're almost here," Spiderfang mumbled when a white cat hurtled into him. Spiderfang fell back and looked up at Icywind who had already been taken to the ground by Redflight, who was snarling viscously.

"It's alright! It's Icywind," Spiderfang quickly said and Redflight slowly retreated silencing his hiss.

"I.. I mean we.. we were so worried! Dapplestone and I were about to come after you when Horsetail returned insisting we stay behind and... Patchedfur? What's wrong with Patc," Icywind rambled on until her eyes fell in Patchedfur and widened.

"What happened!" Redflight pushed past her and Spiderfang tried to reply when the Dapplestone rushed toward them with a relieved expression, turned to horror.

"AHHH! No!" Dapplestone screamed rushing toward Patchedfur's remains,d that were now being laid down by Smoketalon. Dapplestone screamed and the clan clearing filled with cats, filled with stricken faces and horror in their eyes.

"He's dead," Redflight announced, silencing the cats of the clearing.

"How? Who are you? Who are," Shystar questioned strongly and Redflight sat promptly when a croaked voice split the air.

"REDFLIGHT! Redflight, I...Iah.. have so much to tell you.. I can't believe your back," Raspyhowl said quickly as he touched noses with his brother. They shared similar features yet Raspyhowl was leaner and smaller while Redflight was a huge and muscular tom.

"Redflight...what happened?" Horsetail said after swallowing. The tom seemed to contain his excitement and Redflight nodded. Redflight made his way into the camp followed by the other cats that were in his party. Spiderfang helped Dapplestone carry in Patchedfur's body and set it near the trees where she quickly sniffles her tears and focused on Redflight.

"We arrived in the territory this evening and followed two rogues down to a clearing. Southeast of this camp. We silently watched as a group of cats talked about plans to... seperate from this clan. I even overheard one at suggest killing Horsetail," Redflight informed and the clan shifted in worry. Horsetail just looked at Redflight curiously, giving sly glances toward Spiderfang.

"A she cat, named Voidfur, exposed where Patchedfur was hiding. Then a tom named Vultureclaw murdered him..."

"YOU LIAR! Vultureclaw would never murder a cat! It must've been Voidfur!" Dapplestone shouted out but no cat seemed to appear on Dapplestone's side except Nightsky.

"It was! I was there, I saw it!" Spiderfang said with a gulp and the

eyes turned to him.

"We took the patrol to investigate what Icywind saw earlier, and we found a plot to kill cats. I tried to save Patchedfur bur, Vultureclaw was too quick," Spiderfang replied getting increasingly quieter. Dapplestone was misty eyed and not convinced.

"We saved Spiderfang, in time. But not Patchedfur. But if they hadn't discovered the plot, you would've had more deaths," Smoketalon added on and the clan just sat with gaped jaws.

"Enough. Everyone needs to retire to their dens... NOW!" Horsetail echoed but Coldlies was fed up.

"NO! We're resolving this now! No more lying, no more hiding! What are you not telling us!" Coldlies yelled at the old leader Spiderdang decided to stay quiet but the other rogues stood with Coldlies.

"This is my clan and disrespect will not be tolerated!" Horsetail hissed loudly in her whiskers and Coldlies stepped forward with a growl.

"This is our clan, Horsetail," Shystar said bringing tension off the two cats.

"You swore to be loyal to Lightclan and now you will disgrace that by..."

"I follow Lightclan on my own terms... NOT YOURS!" Coldlies hissed and Horsetail gave her a stern and cold glare.

"I told Lightclan... I told them kittypets and rogues, could not be warriors. But they didn't listen," Horsetail mumbled before retreating into his den. The clan was frozen at his words and Feathershade's eyes became misty. The minutes wasted in silent were defeating and deafening to the clan's ears.

"I'm done with Horsetail's lies. I'm leaving to start a new clan. Any cat may join us... No one will be judged as a Kittypet or rogue. Not anymore," Coldlies announced before heading north followed by only Shystar. Then Darktide stood and followed her, along with

Cinderstorm, Leapinghare, Softstep, Frostycloud, and slowly Icywind. Spiderfang felt an urge to join his friends but swallowed at the sight of Feathershade and the crumbling clan. He watched Icywind glance back at him but he shook his head. He owed Dapplestone, he owed her kits. And he needed to bring down Vultureclaw and keep the oath he gave to Lightclan.

When Spiderfang retreated to the Warriors den, it was silent with only four cats that remained. Swiftfawn, shockingly, had not joined her mate and sat in her nest with a somber expression. Nightsky, shocked at the earlier revelation, was frozen in decision. Raspyhowl kept watch after escorting the speechless cat Redflight had returned with, to another open den.

And Dapplestone sat in the center of camp, the only one left mourning the body of Patchedfur. The tortoiseshell's sobs carried throughout the night, until she fell asleep with her nose nuzzled in his fur.

R.I.P. PATCHEDFUR

Created by EpicCroft. This Kittypet was dragged into the Warrior life with such a pensive and doubtful spirit. Then Quinn because Patchedpaw and although dull, ordinary and boring he managed to win the heart of perhaps the most beautiful she cat in the clan, Dapplestone.

After becoming Patchedfur, they became mates and they lived happily until the one night he was sent to help Spiderfang detect an unusual disturbance. Betrayed by Voidfur, a fellow Kittypet and warrior, and killed by Vultureclaw his death was a brutal event that officially snapped the clan in three. May Patchedfur live peacefully in Lightclan, as he watches his kits and his mate fight off the evils of the Warrior Life.

Everyone may give their respects in the comments if they so wish.

Chapter 18

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redflight- a ginger tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Undetermined.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes.

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a dark red-ginger tom with yellow eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. She's a medicine cat apprentice.

Kit:
Riverkit- gray blue furred she kit with white tipped pass and tail. She has green eyes. 1 1/2 moon old.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldlies- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Undetermined.

Warriors:
Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs and blue eye.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shystar- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes.

Queens:
Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Expecting Vultureclaw's kits.

Darkclan-

Leader: Vultureclaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:
Lost- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Werner- scrawny white furred tom with short fur and yellow eyes.

Mittens- white ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Allan- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Redflight stared out across the camp as it came upon the second morning since he had returned. The commotion and actions of the other cats were confusing to him. He needed to be filled in and wanted Horsetail to explain everything to him, as he did when he was an apprentice. Alas, his trusted friend and mentor had changed. After storming into his den that night, he didn't come out. To Redflight's luck, Raspyhowl was more than happy to have an excuse to spend more time with him.

Once the two brothers realized they were orphans, they had no other choice to follow Horsetail. Being a medicine cat, Horsetail was wise and happened to gain battle experience after banished by his own clan. The elder passed his experience of the world, hunting and defense onto Redflight, and he passed it onto his brother. Lightclan revealed its wishes to Redflight and took away his brother for five moons. Now Raspyhowl was almost 11 moons and Redflight was nearly 21 moons.

"So... a lot of cats came since I left?" Redflight prompted quietly as they strolled out of camp. Raspyhowl nodded before continuing.

"After you left, Lightclan gave Horsetail a prophecy. They said I'd find a Tom with a pelt like dark waves, then more would follow Kittypet and Rogue alike. Then the one with yellow eyes will..."

"Will what?"Redflight nudged and Raspyhowl's eyes widened and he

swallowed.

"Save or destroy the clans, forever," he whispered while trotting up ahead, to hunt. Redflight nodded and decided to follow behind as Raspyhowl hunted. The territory was refreshing considering the many Twolegplaces, Thunderpaths and Twolegs he had to cross on his journey. The food was scarce yet they had managed. Soon Raspyhowl caught a squirrel and the two headed back to camp.

"So this cat..."

"It's a bogus prophecy. Almost every cat has yellow eyes, nowadays. I do," Raspyhowl added on but then his lips turned into a snarl.

"Vultureclaw though.. I hate that piece of crow food. He's got warrior blood, just like us. His father was leader of Skyclan," he remarked staring at Redflight imploringly.

"Do you think Horsetail knew them?" Redflight questioned suspiciously. Was this chance or planned?

"No. Vultureclaw is the same age as me. And his mother is around your age, and I'm sure Horsetail has been alone longer than that. But Vultureclaw's father.."

"Whose his mother?" Redflight asked curiously, faintly remembering the events of the night before.

"Dapplestone, she's the she cat that lost Patchedfur, her new mate. She's really nice Redflight, so don't push her," Raspyhowl said as they passed through the edge of the camp. He headed toward the pile and dropped off the squirrel as Redflight headed toward the she cat. Dapplestone had set off early this morning with Swiftfawn and they buried the body of Patchedfur.

The tortoiseshell she cat now laid in the cover of the cedars. Her head was rested against her paws, and compare to her grief yesterday, she seemed peaceful. Redflight started to walk toward her trying to not stare at her beautiful pelt and figure. Although the she cat was a moon with kits, she barely showed it.

"Dapplestone," Redflight said with a nod and the she cat's eyes

darted open. Two emerald eyes stared back at him and he felt his throat clench. "I'm Redflight. I wanted to ask you about the past few moons."

"Oh, alright. Then perhaps we should take a walk," she said and sat up with a composed expression. Redflight nodded and followed her out, his eyes trained on her perfect strides. Dapplestone may have noticed his states yet she didn't show it.

"You're from Skyclan?"

"Yes, Horsetail told you, I suppose," she replied but Redflight shook his head. She narrowed her eyes for an explanation and Redflight already had the words.

"No, Raspyhowl. I used to here stories about Skyclan.. when I lived in Shadowclan. How did you, survive?" Redflight questioned curiously and she grinned.

"It was a lot like what happened here. One warrior came and brought Kittypets and rogues together. We lived in a ravine. I miss it.."

"Yeah. Did you have any family?" Redflight asked slyly. He watched her intently as she struggled to pull the words out.

"Yes. I only knew my mother. Some said my father was a rogue, some say he died. My mother was killed by a rat bite before I was given my warrior name. My mate, Thunderstrike, was my mentor and deputy at the time. He become leader right after the previous leader died at the hand of twolegs. Then twolegs destroyed the clan, my mate and my daughter. I escaped with my son Vultureclaw and we took refuge with rogues until we came here," Dapplestone told throughly and Redflight listened patiently. At that point they stopped and looked out over the lake which they had reached.

"I don't know what happened to Vultureclaw. One day he was the most eager and loyal cat I knew, and the next he.. murdered someone," she whispered, trying to keep her composure.

"Maybe now that they've formed their own clan, things will get

better," Redflight said, trying to be uplifting. Dapplestone nodded and looked back uphill.

"Let's get back before it's dark. Maybe Horsetail will want to speak," Dapplestone said and the two made their way back to camp, hastily.

Meanwhile, at the Caveclan, Shystar waited for the hunting patrol to return. Her stomach was churning with hunger and pain but she had to keep herself from eating to much. Each day she tried to jog around the borders, before they left. But now, their new clans future was undetermined and Lightclan hadn't spoken yet.

Shystar had more things to worry about as her fears were about to come true soon. She couldn't keep silent anymore yet she couldn't rely on Horsetail or the others for help. There was no telling how'd they'd take it.

She turned from the entrance of the cave, into the deeper tunnels and caverns that only she had explored. Shystar only brought a single branch and her faith in Lightclan with here. The cold was not a problem as she started to feel overwhelming heat come upon her. She barely made it into her old cavern where her old best lay still intact. Her paws became weak and feeble and she leaned against the cold stone wall before laying in the nest and shutting her eyes in pain.

The kits were coming and she had to bite on the stick to stop herself from screaming. She knew for two moons that she wouldn't have Rockdust with her, yet she still had a feeling of emptiness. Shystar would've sacrificed half her lives to have Rockdust by her side once again. Soon she gave birth to the first kit, a tom with black fur and a horrid twisted foot. She grimaced as a second pain came over her and the second kit was delivered, a tom with cream fur, brown tipped ears, and orange paws. After the two last kits were a she cat and a tom.

"You'll be Twistedkit," she whispered to the tom with the twisted foot. "Youll be Flintkit, my beautiful daughter will be Blitzkit and my last son will be Fairkit," she told they before licking each throughly.

"Shystar! Are you okay? I smell blood!" A voice echoed from another cavern. Shystar recognized Softstep and, sure enough, the she cat came bounding in. Her eyes widened as she saw the four huddles, then they softened.

"Oh Shystar.. you."

"Yes. I'm sorry I hid them.. but I wanted to wait until I knew Rockdust, my mate, was gone. It's clear now to me though."

"What are their names?" Softstep asked curiously settling next to Shystar. She pointed toward each one as she listed their names.

"The she cat is Blitzkit. Flinkit is the tom one with orange paws, and the cream tom with brown legs is Fairkit. The last kit...is..."

"Oh no.. what happened to him?" Softstep shuddered. Shystar scoffed and pulled the kit close to her side.

"His name is Twistedkit. I guarantee he's going to be the best tom this clan will have," Shystar stated adamantly and Softstep just shut her mouth.

"This should be the nursery," Softstep added and Shymask nodded. The cavern let in only a crack of light that lit the space, yet it was roomy and protected. There were no gaps kits could get stuck in, or explore and it wasn't too far from the other dens or the cave stream.

"Yes. It will be."

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting.

Chapter 19

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redflight- a ginger tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Undetermined.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes.

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean ginger furred tom with Amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. She's a medicine cat apprentice.

Kit:
Riverkit- gray blue furred she kit with white tipped pass and tail. She has green eyes. 1 1/2 moon old.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldlies- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Undetermined.

Warriors:

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs and blue eye.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Queens:

Shystar- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes. Kits: Twistedkit (Tom), Flintkit (Tom), Blitzkit (she cat), and Fairkit (Tom)

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Expecting Vultureclaw's kits.

Darkclan-

Leader: Vultureclaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lost- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Werner- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Mittens- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Allan- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Yule- gray and white furred Tom with gray eyes.

Darren- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a black furred Tom with white socks and a scar over his eye.

Evening was serene for the Warriors of Mountainclan. The boarders had not distinct smell of Vultureclaw and his forces. The two apprentices loved exploring the forest with Spottedpelt and Smoketalon. All of them took back their many catches and the rest of the clan did not need to hunt that day. Flamepaw prided herself in the squirrel she yanked down from a tree. It was so oblivious, it was almost unfair.

"Don't worry about it! The mouse are tasty," Flamepaw assured her sister as they glanced toward the fresh kill pile. A few pieces of prey remained, including her mouse.

"I could care less how big my prey is," she grumbled apprehensively. Flamepaw narrowed her eyes, looking up from her meal.

"What's wrong then? You've been like this all day," Flamepaw said and Sparrowpaw sighed. She sat up and looked past the prey and toward Horsetail's hollow tree den.

"Do you remember? What I said.."

"Remember what?"

"I want to be a medicine cat! I can't sit around and kill other cats after what happened to mom. This is my chance," Sparrowpaw said hopefully and Flamepaw's eyes widened. *Of course! How could I forget.* She asked silently.

Her sister and herself were the only two of their litter. They were only kits when a fire hit their clan, and burned everything. Smoketalon, a member of their former clan, then found them in a scorched log. Without Starclan's guidance, they found their way to a barn, a forest away from the Twolegplace. They lived in that barn for a moon before Redflight found them. Knowing Redflight, as an apprentice, Smoketalon trusted and agreed to join him. Flamepaw and Sparrowpaw didn't hesitate at the offer to renew clan life, and they soon searched for other cats.

Jaggedclaw, Riverkit and Spottedpelt were also former clan cats. Sparrowpaw then received a strange dream telling them to go back, and do they did. It took them a moon to return to the isolated mountain range.

"Tell Redflight we need mentors. After all, deputy can only be someone who has mentored," Flamepaw reminded and Sparrowpaw stood.

"I'll go straight to Horsetail," she stated confidently trotting toward his den. Flamepaw clenched her teeth and waited for her sister to return.

"Horsetail, are you in here?" Sparrowpaw called out. She had never met the medicine cat personally for he was too busy grieving the events that occurred three nights earlier. When she reached the end she saw a huddle of fur examining and sorting herbs.

"Horsetail..."

"Name?" He ordered without looking back. His fur hadn't been groomed and the den smelt of rotten prey.

"Um.. I'm Sparrowpaw. I want to be a medicine cat," she said clearly and he turned around with a raised eye. Horsetail then let out an awkward chuckle and Sparrowpaw swallowed.

"So Redflight finally acknowledges I'm not immortal. Bring me Redflight and we'll have a clan meeting tonight. Then you'll start training tomorrow," Horsetail said with a final grin. Sparrowpaw gave a curt nod before dashing out and over toward Redflight.

The dark red furred tom sat talking with Smoketalon, Spiderfang and Jaggedclaw. All were laughing at something Spiderfang was speaking about, so they didn't notice Sparrowpaw. She wasted no time in delivering the news, seeing that it was more important.

"Horsetail needs to see you," Sparrowpaw said and Redflight stood as soon as he comprehended the message. He gave a curt nod back and bounded toward the medicine cat den. Sparrowpaw admired Redflight and hoped Horsetail would not wait on giving him official leadership. He was a true leader and one of the nicest tom's she knew.

"What's it about?" Smoketalon immediately asked. Spiderfang seemed to have almost asked the same question.

"He wants to hold a clan meeting. How's Riverkit adjusting, Jaggedclaw?" Sparrowpaw questioned seeing the little kit in the corner of her eye. She was gnawing at a mouse that was almost her size while Feathershade sat with her.

"Great. She really likes Feathershade, Dapplestone and Swiftfawn. They've been really good and watched her while I was out. I feel a little bad she has no one to play with," Jaggedclaw said with a bit of grief. Spiderfang laughed and looked up.

"She'll always have people to play with. Especially in two moons when Dapplestone has her kits. And who knows? If the others come

back," Spiderfang began to say but was cut off by Swiftfawn that was sitting nearby.

"They're not coming back," she corrected, as her paws stiffened. Spiderfang gritted his teeth and turned toward her. The light brown she cat gave a smirk as he tried to combat her accusation.

"They're my friends and they'd never leave the clan. I'm sure Leapinghare will.."

"No he won't. None of them will. Because they've made it clear that they don't want to follow Horsetail," Swiftfawn sneered and Feathershade stood from her position.

"And what about you? You said the same things to Horsetail they were... Yet your here," Feathershade challenged with a hateful gleam in et eyes. Swiftfawn scoffed an turned back toward her.

"I'm here because I made a commitment and oath to Lightclan. Young and naïve warriors obviously do not acknowledge oaths, they acknowledge fear," she said brutally toward Feathershade who struggled to keep her composure. Spiderfang sat uncomfortably as Feathershade stalked back over to Riverkit and sat down. Swiftfawn stalked off and laid at the edge of the den. Dapplestone then came and sat by Spiderfang who was still eyeing Swiftfawn suspiciously. *What happened to her?* Dapplestone seemed to have almost read his thoughts as she replied in a hushed tone.

"You can't tell anyone.. alright?" She asked for reassurance and Spiderfang nodded complying.

"Her Twolegs.. they took away her ability to have kits. Leapinghare and her have been trying to start a family since they got here, but it was no use. She had to go back to the Twolegplace to learn that, and when she did, she refused to talk to Leapinghare. She's convinced she's not worthy of he, and that he deserves better."

"But... why," Spiderfang stumbled still confused. Dapplestone cut him off with a flick of her.

"It's none of our business. Just try to be considerate. She's sacrificed

everything to come here, and she's feels nothing has gotten better," Dapplestone explained with a sigh. It looked as if she wanted to say more when Redflight exited the medicine cat den with Horsetail. Her eyes followed the red tom immediately, and he seemed to watch her from the corner of his eye.

Time seemed frozen for the two as their eyes met, until it was broken by Horsetail's announcement. The brown tabby Tom jumped to a higher position and started to address the clan. Throughout Horsetail's speech, Redflight exchanged sly glances with Dapplestone. The she cat, suddenly filled with a feeling she had never felt before, tried to contain her blushing.

"I am sorry of my absence the past few days. I was searching for answers with Lightclan, if I was leading the clan in the right way. Now, I know, that the actions that occurred were truly my fault," Horsetail announced, receiving a few disagreeing glanced.

"You see, I am not a leader, I am a medicine cat. A young apprentice reminded me of that today," he continued sharing a thankful glance with Sparrowpaw. "In saying that, we need to elect a new leader. Of course, it is the clan's decision but I insist that you elect the warrior who has proven himself, survived and would die for his clan. Redflight."

The Tom looked toward him expressionless. He was not shocked, he was thankful yet humble. No one seemed to object his leadership. Even if a cat did object, Redflight's supporters would outnumber the others.

"Then.. Redflight would you step forward. Do you promise to lead and teach this clan what it is and was to be a warrior?" Horsetail asked in the spirit of ceremony.

"I do."

"Do you promise to protect the youngest to the oldest clanmates with your life? And when necessary, give mercy to those opposing you?"

"I do," Redflight repeated be forint looking back up at Horsetail. The

elder smiled and touched the tip of his tail to Redflight's shoulder.

"Then with the guidance and power of Lightclan, you shall and forever be known as Redstar. You shall receive your nine lives when we and your deputy, travel to the Lake. You will elect your deputy by tomorrow night. Until then, may Lightclan be with you," Horsetail said with a smile of admiration. The elder stepped down from the rock and Redstar jumped onto it and smiled.

"I promise, I will lead this clan with the all the lives Lightclan will give me," he declared looking over his Clanmates and warriors, keeping his eyes near Dapplestone. "My first action as leader, will be to announce the new mentors for our patient apprentices."

"Sparrowpaw wishes to choose the path of the medicine cat but I have decided she and medicine cats of this clan, will also be responsible for learning how to hunt and defend the clan if needed. Horsetail, shall be her medicine cat mentor. While Smoketalon shall be her mentor in her warrior training," Redstar announced and Dapplestone gasped but smiled. The she cat was happy but carried a worry of stress, for taking on both roles would be difficult.

"Flamepaw has chosen to be a warrior and will surely become one. Her mentor, will be Spiderfang. I may not know him personally, but his courage and character has made a lasting impression. Spiderfang sat stunned and felt strange as Flamepaw bounded toward him and touched his nose with hers.

"It's tradition, sorry if that was awkward," Flamepaw mumbled with a smile and he nodded a bit bewildered.

"I believe that is all we will need to discuss. If anything strand appears in boarders or hunting, please have it reported at once. The safety and health of the clan comes before all," Redstar informed and jumped off the stone finishing the meeting. Smoketalon and Raspyhowl quickly congratulated Redstar. Spottedpelt sent over a nod of congrats before making his way into the den with droopy eyes.

"Congraddulaaatiions... Redstar. I hope in gget youu as a mentorr," she said followed by her big brother, Jaggedclaw. Redstar grinned

and looked down at the kit.

"I'm sure whoever you get will be perfectly skilled, Riverkit. You're going to be a great warrior someday," Redstar said and the kits blushed and ran back to her den. Jaggedclaw congratulated him also before heading back. Horsetail has already retired to his den and soon only Dapplestone and Redstar were left in the clearing.

"Horsetail was right. You're going to be an amazing leader," Dapplestone said with a smile. Redstar found himself only gazing into her green eyes, speechless for words.

"Iah...I'm sure any cat here could lead just as well," Redstar replied with a grin and she smirked.

"Lightclan doesn't pick just any cat," Dapplestone reminded him as she fiddled with her tail. Redstar smiled and stared at her. Every minute, he became more mesmerized at her beauty.

"For whatever reason Lightclan picked me. I guarantee, no cat you love will ever be hurt again," he swore and she stood and closed her mouth.

"I believe you. And I know the way you feel and I feel. But, you can't replace Thunderstar. Maybe Patchedfur..but this is too quick. It doesn't feel right, and if I would've saved my heart for Thunderstar, beyond death, Vultureclaw would've stayed," Dapplestone explained causing Redstar's stomach to drop. The feeling of total loss reclaimed him, as it did when he realized he lost his clan to fire.

"What if I wait... you know I would..."

"I don't think I could," Dapplestone swallowed and looked back toward the warrior's den. Then she left and disappeared into the den.

Far away from the forest, on a thin, dirt path that winded along the side of the Mountain, Vultureclaw led Voidfur and his group of rogues to the top.
They had been walking for two hours, and were growing tired from

all the walking and cold from the wind that blew against the Rocky Mountain edge.
Werner, the scrawny tom that had been the first cat inducted into the almost clan, walked on the left side of Vultureclaw. He had followed the gray tabby with unswerving loyalty to this point, but was very curious about where they were going.

"Vultureclaw, why are we going to the top of the Mountain?" Werner asked in a curious tone. Vultureclaw looked at Werner and then the top of the mountain. Werner noticed that he still had caked blood on his paw fur from when he had killed the Kittypet.

"We are going up the mountain," Vultureclaw explained, "because everyone is going to get their clan names."

All of the rogues began to mumble excitedly, and Voidfur smiled at their excitement. For her it felt like she had gotten her apprentice name a long time ago.

"What will our names be?" Lost, the striped cat who had been so eager for blood, asked.

"Your names will be reflective of either your personality, or who you are inside. Lightclan will have a name for all of you," Voidfur promised but Vultureclaw didn't seem so sure. He looked back at the rogues, who were beginning to slow from exhaustion, but were too tough to show it.
He had to admit that he himself was very tired.

"Why don't we stop for the night? We will stay here for a few nights. In the tiny sheltered areas. This way, they won't detect our scents." He suggested.
Almost immediately, every cat lay down on the path, sighing in relief. Voidfur stretched her legs and laughed.

"Finally!" She said jokingly, "I thought that you would make us walk forever!" The other cats laughed and settled down to sleep.

Vultureclaw lay off to the side of the path and pretended to go to sleep. After he heard the snores of the other cats, he got up and crept over to where Voidfur lay.

"Voidfur," He whispered, "I have to go. Expect me to be back by morning,"

Voidfur nodded subtly, and so Vultureclaw, ignoring the path, ran strait down the rocky outcropping of the mountain. He reached a small boulder that jutted out from the mountain, giving him a bird's eye view of the forest. Vultureclaw sunk his claws into the soft topsoil as the ferocious wind blew. He squinted his eyes against the harsh breeze, looking for his old camp. A small clearing with a large rock stuck out to him. It was close enough to the Lake to be the camp.

Readying himself, he crouched. In a cautious spring he jumped off of the cliff eddge and down the side of the mountain, slipping and sliding occasionally but always able to right himself by the trail, which wrapped around the mountain and allowed him a stopping point.

He made it down the mountain this way in just a few minutes, and quickly made his way to the direction of the camp. Climbing up an oak tree, he went from branch-to-branch in order to stay hidden, just in case there was a cat on patrol.

Strangely enough, there were no cats out in the forest. He expected that they were either asleep or deciding a plan of action after today's events.

Finally, he saw the opening of the camp clearing. However, he did not dare enter. Not until he was certain that everyone was asleep. The camp was quiet, and Vultureclaw relaxed, though it made him jumpy to be in this place, after what he had done only hours before.

He slyly made his way toward the edge of camp trying to avoid the view of whichever cat was keeping guard. When I managed to look in the den get close of enough to identify the scents, he panicked. Nightsky's scent was missing.

A sound on the other edge of camp made Vultureclaw freeze. He crouched against the tree branch and looked through the darkness. His mother lay on the edge of camp opposite to him. He felt a knot of guilt twist in his gut when he saw that she was sleeping next to a

small mound.

Right then he regretted his action. It hadn't felt good, killing, but at the time he had thought it necessary. But seeing it cause this much pain for someone so close to him... NO! He shook himself of these thoughts and fumbled back up the trees. He tried thinking of where the rogues would go, then it finally occurred to him.

"That damn cave," he cursed and ran uphill toward the mountain, where the streams ran off from. It wasn't long before his feet touched the cold stone plateau that led to the entrance of the cave. The cat keeping guard was unknown but he had faith it would be Nightsky. Sneaking as quietly as he could across camp, he made his way to the den that

"Nightsky?" He whispered as quietly as he could into the shadows. A cat turned into the moonlight. It wasn't Nightsky.
It was Softstep.

The she cat, however, didn't make a sound. She just watched him with eerily calm eyes. When she finally did speak, her voice was grave.

"I hope you've seen the damage you've done," She spoke, "To Patchedfur, your mother," Softstep breathed in a shaky, "and to me. Why would you come back?"

Vultureclaw flinched at Softstep's mention of herself. He looked down at the ground, saw his bloody paws, and looked up again; but he didn't meet her gaze.

"What happened to you was an accident, Softstep," Vultureclaw cringed, "I thought yo...things would be...different. But it didn't work."

Softstep sighed and looked down at her pregnant belly. "I know." She met his gaze, and gave him a pitying look.

"I'll go get Nightsky and tell none of them anything, under one condition. You don't touch my kits. No matter what happens. I rather take them anywhere then let you father them."

Vultureclaw's eyes widened in hesitation yet he nodded in agreement. "Fine. But you can never step in the way."

"She told me to wait here, in case you came. She's at the stream," Softstep whispered. Vultureclaw nodded, turned, and walked quietly back to the cave entrance.At the last minute, he turned. Softstep was no longer watching him. Instead, she had disappeared into the shadows of the cavern.

"Thank you, Softstep," he whispered before walking back into the forest, to the stream where he had first really felt feelings towards Nightsky.

She was there, sitting as still as a statue, looking into the stream's babbling waters. He walked up and sat next to her, wrapping his tail around her. She didn't speak, Nightsky just lay her head against his shoulder. They started to groom each other, which Dapplestone referred to as sharing tongues. They sat there for what seemed like hours, watching each others' reflections in the stream. For once, Vultureclaw cared about nothing for that brief time except love for Nightsky, until she broke the silence.

"I'm ready to go now."

They broke apart and walked away towards the mountain together.

Thank you for that last part about Vultureclaw, CeRosette.

Chapter 20

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Undetermined.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes.

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. **Mentor**: Spiderfang.

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. She's a medicine cat

apprentice. **Mentors**: Horsetail and Smoketalon.

Kit:
Riverkit- gray blue furred she kit with white tipped pass and tail. She has green eyes. 1 1/2 moon old.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldlies- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Undetermined.

Warriors:

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs and gray eyes.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Queens:

Shystar- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes. Kits: Twistedkit (Tom), Flintkit (Tom), Blitzkit (she cat), and Fairkit (Tom)

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Darkclan-

Leader: Vultureclaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lost- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Werner- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Mittens- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Allan- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Yule- gray and white furred Tom with gray eyes.

Darren- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Queen:
Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Expecting Vultureclaw's kits.

Voidfur looked over the forest, as the light started to fill the night sky. Dawn was coming, and Vultureclaw was nowhere to be seen yet. The other cats would be waking and they expected a leader, and Voidfur felt the pressure to help supply one.

When the two figures started to make their way up the hill, Voidfur stood. She turned around to the sleeping cats who were trying their best to sleep warmly on the peak. The wind would surge against the peak and send chills through her pelt.

"Wake up! We've got work to do," Voidfur ordered swiftly, prodding Nightjet, a warrior tom they had found in the Twolegplace. The tom was unsure of the leadership, but Voidfur would make him loyal.

"What is it?" Nightjet asked jumping up. At the commotion, the other cats slowly rose, all with confused glances. Mittens looked at

Werner and scowled.

"I have never been in this uncomfortable of a place," Mittens informed and Werner glanced away slyly. Voidfur frowned and looked to the others.

"If you reject the life of a warrior, you can go back to starving in a dumpster. Suit yourself," Voidfur replied with a chilling tone. Mittens smirked but did not reply as Vultureclaw and Nightsky had just reached the top of the peak.

"We shall begin under the overhang," Vultureclaw said and the cats gladly moved toward where the wind for more tame and they could here words clearly. Their young lead looked around and sat promptly with a content look upon his face.

"I am pleased so many of you have joined us. With a great responsibility to the clans, we need great numbers. Lightclan will be pleased," Vultureclaw said and Nightsky tried to step out of attention. She enjoyed being with Vultureclaw but the other cats were ragged and potentially dangerous for her kits. *How could Vultureclaw already trust these cats?* She wondered as he continued.

"With Lightclan's guidance, I now name myself Vulturestar forever more. My deputy, of course, will be Voidfur. She has proven herself most loyal besides Nightsky, who shall be our beloved Queen and my mate," he announced proudly. Mittens smirked but the other toms nodded as to say "good job".

"Now, Warrior names. Werner.. please step forward. You are old enough, and hunt well enough to be given this and you shall. From this day on, you will be known as Ghostpelt," Vulturestar spoke powerfully with handsome authority. Next, Mittens came forward persistently and the young leader continued.

"Mittens, you will be known as Maliceflame," Vulturestar said and she nodded showing a liking to the name.

"Lost. Although young, we shall not discriminate. You will be known as Lostpath, for often.. those are the most dangerous ones." Lostpath nodded and smiled a toothy grin before sitting down

again. One by one they each were named. Allan became Oakstripe, Darren became Earthfoot, Yule became Sleetpool, and Nightjet remained with his warrior name.

"Although the future of our clan is uncertain... I promise, we will find our territory and take what is rightfully ours. Our clan will grow once those realize we are powerful, and we will thrive," Vulturestar proclaimed and the cats howled in excitement. "For now we will live on the rocky expanse past the trees across the rocks. The other clans will not detect our scents, and hunting will be plentiful. We will leave now and settle before we approach the others." Vulturestar and his new clan gladly left the mountain and headed south, across the lake, to where they would build their new home.

When a bright line of light hot through the crevice in the warrior's den, Cinderstorm woke with a shook. A terrible dream of Nightsky bloody and in pain, had woke him. He looked around frantically, noticing it was too late. Nightsky was gone.

Whatever his dream had meant, he couldn't keep his mind off it and immediately fell into a pensive state. Cinderstorm's heart had fallen for the beautiful blue she cat, yet she was gone forever. She had been lost to an evil Tom who she was bearing kits for. The whole scenario disgusted Cinderstorm so much that he couldn't bear being without something to do.

"I want to go for a boarder patrol," Cinderstorm whispered to Frostycloud. She eagerly looked up with a smile.

"Can I come along?"

"Yeah, count me in too!" Icywind said groggily stepping up and from her nest. Cinderstorm nodded but bore no excitement that the girls did. Coldlies had ordered them to stay in the caves until there was no sign or scent of the other clans. She assured them that safety was above all at the moment. Cinderstorm thought it wise since their numbers were lower than the others, from what Icywind said.

"Coldlies, we're going on patrol!" Icywind called out to Coldlies who was sharing a meal with Softstep and Darktide. The leader nodded

and swallowed before speaking.

"That's alright. Bring something back for Shystar, though. She's really worn out with the kits," Coldlies replied and they nodded and head off. Frostycloud took the lead and Icywind the rear. No one had expected Shystar to be two moons in with kits when she arrived because they assumed her weight was just over normal. Yet, it was not and she delivered four beautiful kits the night before.

"I hope I mentor Blitzkit. She has a really beautiful pelt," Icywind said but Cinderstorm shook his head in response. Icywind scoffed as he began.

"Flintkit is so quiet though. He'd be no problem to train," Cinderstorm debated. Icywind attempted to respond when Frostycloud cut them both off.

"Psssh! I only care what happens to the one with the crippled paw. How do you train that?" Frostycloud questioned and Icywind nodded. Cinderstorm just hoped there was a Warrior's future for the young tom. He had never encountered a crippled cat before, but it only proved they die too quickly.

"I wonder who the new deputy will be. I've talked with Coldlies but she doesn't know who to pick without Lightclan's guidance. But at the same time, should she even be leading?" Frostycloud asked but the other two cats felt the awkward conversation rising.

"She brought us here. I rather be lead by a friend then a cat I just met. As for deputy... who knows?" Icywind said but started to look deeper into the trees with despondency. Cinderstorm followed her eyes and although they could not see it, many yards away they smelled Horsetail's clan.

"I...I miss him, Feathershade, Raspyhowl's cracked up little voice. Heck, I miss that cranky old medicine cat," Icywind whispered. Cinderstorm sighed and looked at his toes.

"No one would blame you if you wanted to..."

"No way! I'd be a coward if I went back now," Icywind replied

before bounding off toward the scent of a squirrel. Cinderstorm looked behind him but Frostycloud had run off to continue the patrol.

Icywind followed the scent until she saw the fluffy tail of a squirrel. She stalked closer until a snap, a few tail-lengths away alarmed the prey.

Icywind bolted forward but as her claws caught ahold of the prey a large force rammed into her side. Icywind took the prey in her jaws and was prepared to dart when a force pinned her to the ground. She let out a hiss at the same time an amused laugh filled the air. Icywind faced the cat with two Crimson yellow eyes and gasped.

"Spppiderfang?" Icywind murmured through the squirrel. The black furred tom's eyes were bright with surprise.

"What are you doing here?" Spiderfang whispered frantically. Icywind looked back with a confused glance.

"I was hunting..."

"But you're on Mountainclan territory. If one of our patrols caught you..."

"Territory? I thought this way Caveclan territory," Icywind replied with a confused glance.

"Sorry. I guess it is confusing," Spiderfang replied taking a glance over his shoulder. "Listen, I have to go. But come see me here, tonight."

"Alright, but what about..."

"Just come here tonight. Please. I have to go," Spiderfang said quickly before running off. Icywind stood up and grabbed the squirrel, hastily making it back to camp.

As the day came to an end, thoughts of Spiderfang never seized to swirl through her mind. *How was he? How was Mountainclan? What does he wan to see me about?* She couldn't stop thinking about that until Coldlies said she'd conduct a short meeting before they retired

to the dens.

"From now on we will conduct things as usual. Duties will be hunting, patrolling, and various camp chores from now on. I will announce the deputy, tomorrow. And tonight I will visit Lightclan in the cavern I firs met them. If any cat from another clan approaches peacefully, we shall here what they say. If a cat attacks, show them little mercy. We shall not parish. We will remain strong."

Thank you as always.

Let me know if you ship any cats.. because LOVE is in the air...

That's all.

Chapter 21

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. She's a medicine cat apprentice.

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Expecting Patchedfur's kits.

Kit:
Riverkit- gray blue furred she kit with white tipped pass and tail. She has green eyes. 1 1/2 moon old.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldlies- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Undetermined.

Warriors:

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs and gray eyes.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Queens:

Shystar- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes. Kits: Twistedkit (Tom), Flintkit (Tom), Blitzkit (she cat), and Fairkit (Tom)

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes.

Darkclan-

Leader: Vultureclaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Queen:
Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Expecting Vultureclaw's kits.

"Icywind.. are you there?" Spiderfang asked. He crept up to the large Sycamore where he had spoken to Icywind earlier. The forest was still and leaves of Fall littered the ground. Hunting was becoming harder as there were more leaves to step on.

Earlier Spiderfang had taken Flamepaw out to explore the territory and try out hunting. Having experience, Flamepaw easily managed to catch a vole. He was happy the apprentice hadn't seen Icywind. In fact he worried about it for the rest of the day until Redstar announced a clan meeting. *The deputy of Mountainclan will be Spiderfang... Rogue to warrior he has proven himself able and loyal to this new clan...* The words continued to play over in his head. He was utterly surprised that he was named second in command and in

the distant future, destined to lead Mountainclan.

At the time, all Spiderfang could respond with was.. *thanks*. Dinner was a blur as many cats congratulated him. Swiftfawn didn't look particularly happy not resentful. Spiderfang was surprised more cats were not resentful that he had gained such a powerful position. He had supposed Dapplestone or Smoketalon would be, but instead it was himself.

After Redstar had talked to him about his life for a while, Spiderfang asked to go to his nest. However, Spiderfang was not tired and went to meet Icywind, then.

"Is everything okay?" Icywind whispered before stepping into the clearing. Her pure white pelt gleamed brightly against the moonlight and her blue eyes twinkled. Spiderfang nodded and they met at the center of the clearing.

"How is everyone? I've missed everyo.. You a lot," Spiderfang said trying to sort out his words. Icywind looked down and back at him.

"It's well. But it hasn't been the same since you left," she replied with misty eyes. Spiderfang suddenly felt his heart drop. Why did he fill so guilty for ring loyal?

"I'm sorry.. but I belong in Mountainclan. Redstar's made me deputy and I'm a mentor. I have responsibilities..."

"Do you really belong there? What about Cinderstorm, Coldlies, Darktide, ME!" She pleaded with worried eyes and Spiderfang began to fully understand. He stepped forward and nuzzled his muzzle into her fur ad she did the same.

"I don't want to lose you," Icywind mumbled almost on the verge of tears. "Why does it have to be so hard?"

Spiderfang just treasured the moment for many seconds. "Maybe it doesn't have to be," he started and Icywind pulled away to examine his face. "What if we meet here. Every other night."

"You're right.. that can't hurt anyone. And we can go hunting some nights," Icywind replied with brightened eyes. The two snuggled

against the Sycamore as the night went on.

Meanwhile, Coldlies settled into Lightclan's cavern. As she drifted off, she quickly rose in a surreal meadow. No cats were in the meadow, although a slim figure sat at the edge of the forest edge. Coldlies trotted toward the edge until the cat came in view.

Before she could speak to the Lightclan she cat, a pain like no other struck her heart. Coldlies was brought to the ground as the pain reached its high then disappeared. *For a life full of wisdom*. The cat's voice murmured. When Coldlies realized what was happening another pain came upon her. *For a life of compassion for clanmate's*. Each time the words were said, a huge joy and strength filled her until the next shot of pain came. *Here is a life for mercy. A life for forgiveness. A life of patience. A life for hope. A life of plenty. A life of acceptance.* When the first eight passed, Coldlies was unsure if she could receive the last one. Lightclan around her had turned to a dark blur and the Lightclan she cat stood over her.

"I Sunlight, leader of Lightclan, hereby name you Coldstar, forever. You will lead your clan rightfully with the lives given to you, but Lightclan will not always be there to guide you. Trust in your clanmates and friends, and you will prevail. Although you came from a life of distrust and savageness, you are bound by the new code. Each moon, meet by the largest sycamore with the other clans. That is where, for one night, each clan will be united as one," Sunlight said eloquently. She smiled and was about to move forward when Coldstar muttered a question.

"What about my deputy? My medicine cat?" She asked, yearning for guidance. The Lightclan leader tilted her head and smiled.

"It is your choice. But remember, choose the best future leader, not the one you love most. And the medicine cat will come soon. When you awake, in fact," Sunlight grinned. Then she turned serious and placed her tail on Coldstar's shoulder.

Whispers of her rogue life filled her ears. It was a tornado of meaningless words that wouldn't stop until the final life struck her. She gasped and her legs went completely feeble and she dropped to the ground. *And finally a life for truth.*

"Coldlies! Coldlies.. are you.."

"I'm fine," Coldstar rose with murky eyes as she examined the cavern around her. Darktide and Cinderstorm stood beside her with worried glares. She pushed through the nightmare of the vivid pain, and the inner strength returned to her.

"I am Coldstar now. Come along, we need to have a clan meeting," she replied but Frostycloud burst into the cavern panting. The three looked toward the she cat who took in deep breaths before continuing.

"That'll have to wait. Softstep is kitting," Frostycloud said, and began to make their way out and toward the den caverns. Coldstar stopped them with a tail flick and turned.

"Scratch the clan meeting. All I needed to say is that Cinderstorm, will be our new deputy. I think everyone will want to see the kits, so I rather not have a mandatory meeting," Coldstar explained and everyone nodded. Cinderstorm whispered his thanks, and Darktide nodded approvingly. Frostycloud had slight disappointment but it was over washed quickly.

Earlier, after Coldlies headed into the sacred tunnels to receive her nine lives, Softstep made her way back to her den. She had just finished a rabbit and was feeling rather nauseous, as she stumbled back. Softstep's eyesight began to blur and she found herself in a spinning tunnel.

"Shystar! Help!" Softstep grimaced and nearly collapsed to the ground. The sharp pain in her stomach made her shake. One of her kits had kicked, and it wasn't long before the other had fought inside of her as well. *It's too early*.. Softstep thought to herself as squeezed her eyes shut.

Shystar had heard her cry of anguish from inside the cave, where she was tending to her litter. Her heart beating with anxiety, she ran quickly to help Softstep.

"Come with me! Carefully, carefully!" Shystar instructed, half carrying the young mother into the cave. Softstep only nodded

weakly, wincing and gritting her teeth.

The cave was dark but cozy, and Softstep was led to a soft nest of leaves and feathers, where she was deposited and quickly given a stick to bite on. Shystar put her tail on her shoulder and instructed the cream she cat as well as she could.

"Just push, Softstep, the kits will do the rest," Shystar said softly but firmly. Softstep bit the stick and wimpered in pain as she pushed the first kit out of her in a thin pool of blood. It was a small, cream-colored she cat. Shystar picked her up and deposited her into the pile of leaves next to her mother and began to lick her clean. Softstep looked at her kit and sighed with relief.
"She's beautiful, Softstep, just two more now!" Shystar urged with a smile. The little kit was sniffing around, her eyes squinched shut. She mewled softly.

Softstep pushed again and this time, another kit slid out but it made no movement or made no mewl. Softstep tried to catch a glimpse as Shystar profusely licked the kit. She unfortunately had no time when the next kit started to come.

Softstep bit down hard on the stick once more, positively yowling with pain as another kit, bigger than the first, came struggling out of her; its little, stout legs were kicking madly.
The kit was a boy, with grey fur and black stripes along his head that ran down his back to the tip of his tail. He was big, for a kit, but he relaxed the minute Shystar dropped him next to his mother. The little kit mewled at her.

"Shystar.. the other kit? Is it alright?" Softstep panicked trying to look at it. Shystar made no noise but placed the kit to where Softstep could see it. It was a tiny gray tabby. The kit was limp and lifeless and Softstep soon breathed in realizing it. Shystar bore a gloomy expression as Softstep pressed the small kit close to her.

Softstep looked over at her new son and daughter with a smile. She took her son and began to lick him clean, Shystar doing the same with the girl.
"They're beautiful, Softstep," Shystar said between licks.

Softstep, who had seemed sad and troubled ever since she had learned of her pregnancy, had a pleasant look on her face as she looked at her kits. She was terribly sad for the dead one, but the other two kept her spirits up.

The gray fur on the male kit's pelt, as soon as Softstep finished cleaning it, puffed up with static. A look of surprise crossed his features. Both mothers laughed hard at this.

"He looks like a bush!" Softstep said through snorts, "His name should be Bushkit."

Shystar nodded in agreement, "A charming and original name for a dashing young tom!"

Bushkit sneezed in agreement. His sister rolled over and nosed around blindly until she found her mother's side. She opened her eyes as well. They were a startling green color.

"I've never seen any kit open their eyes so fast! It usually takes a day or two," Shystar said referring to the she cat. Softstep did not have much experience but was pleasantly surprised with their looks.

"She shall be Gemkit," Softstep said, smiling, and put her paw on Shystar's, "They're so lovely. I wish the other she cat would've survived.." Shystar nodded absentmindedly. Her eyes were on Bushkit, who looked more than a little like a tom that was nothing but bad news right now.

"Who is the father, Softstep?" Shystar said softly. Softstep looked at Shystar with surprise, and then at her kits. She frowned.

"If I tell you, you can't tell anyone else. I don't know what the others would do if they knew." Softstep asked. Shystar walked over to where her own kits lay sleeping and sat down next to them. "I promise not to tell."

"Their father is Vultureclaw," Softstep said, "But mark my words, neither of them will be killers."

Softstep's kitting was written by CeRosette. Everything else was written by myself. I hoped you liked this chapter. We have some new kits. Gemkit and Bushkit.

I still need you love birds to list your crushes in the comments. Past and present...

R.I.P. Kit #2
You were a beautiful gray tabby she cat that would've made your mother and father very proud. But pre-mature birth is a sad reality. We will love and miss you kit #2.

Chapter 22

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. She's a medicine cat apprentice.

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Expecting Patchedfur's kits.

Kit:
Riverkit- gray blue furred she kit with white tipped pass and tail. She has green eyes. 1 1/2 moon old.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Warriors:

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs and gray eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Queens:

Shystar- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes. Kits: Twistedkit (Tom), Flintkit (Tom), Blitzkit (she cat), and Fairkit (Tom)

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. Kits: Gemkit (she cat), and Bushkit (Tom)

Darkclan-

Leader: Vultureclaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Queen:
Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Expecting Vultureclaw's kits.

Morning light beamed into the dens of the Mountainclan cats, early. Horsetail blinked and groggily got to his feet an stumbled tiredly toward the fresh kill pile. Riverkit, already wide eyed and bushy tailed bounded into the clearing and pounced on the old medicine cat. Horsetail started to yell. Riverkit shriveled back in laughter before she darted away.

Sparrowpaw and Flamepaw slowly made their way into the clearing. They exchanged hopes of what the day could bring and shared a rabbit, brought back early that day. Once they had settled and Horsetail had finally calmed himself down, more cats found their way into the clearing.

"Can I come hunting with you and Spiderfang, Flamepaw?" Spottedpelt asked, eager to get out of the camp in any way.

Flamepaw smiled and nodded.

"I'm sure you can! We'll check with Spiderfang, once he's awake," Flamepaw replied with a bit of excitement. Nothing was more thrilling to her than fulfilling her warrior duties.

Spiderfang bursted from his nest. He was on a high from the time he had with Icywind last night. It was strange how he hadn't realized how much he loved and missed her, until them were separated. He headed for the fresh kill pile when a familiar black she cat blocked him.

"Feathershade, how have you been? It's been a few nights. Have you been.."

"Spiderfang, can we talk? Privately?" Feathershade asked with a serious demeanor. Spiderfang glanced over at Flamepaw who looked over longingly but he shook it off and followed his sister. Once they were a few cat lengths from camp she bursted words out.

"I'm sick of this! I'm not appreciated, I'm a horrible warrior and I shouldn't even be here. I'm a stupid Kittypet and I want to go home," Feathershade shouted and grumbled until she was all worked up. Spiderfang sat speechless. He was so consumed with his own life, he neglected his sister. Spiderfang didn't want to admit himself wrong and quickly grew angry.

"You're ridiculous! I told you when we came not to follow! But you still did! Nightsky and Softstep are the best example of why you should've listened to me!" Spiderfang yelled back making Feathershade turn hostile and defensive.

"What do they have to do with anything?" Feathershade growled, remembering the horrible terms she left off on with Nightsky. Spiderfang frowned and continued.

"Softstep ends up with no brother, no mate, but kits. And Nightsky, the nicest Kittypet I knew, ends up falling in love with a murderer! And bearing his kits!" Spiderfang shouted until it turned into a hell of pent of anger. He never wanted his sister here. He wanted what was best for her, and now that she realized her mistake, the anger

was unleashed.

"You're such a jerk! Just because you got everything you've ever wanted! Doesn't mean you're better than everyone else! I wanted that too! To be deputy. But of course, who would pick *quiet*, *sweet*, *little*, *Em*," Feathershade sneered before turning away. "I'm not coming back, not to this clan. Bid my farewell to *Redflight*.. oh and don't forget Horsetail! that bag of *flees*."

Feathershade left then and there and ran back toward the Twolegplace as she promised him. Of course, Spiderfang didn't follow, and no other cat did. *Vultureclaw was right. I matter to no one, I'm worthless*. Feathershade said to herself. She never wanted to leave the Warrior life, but she didn't have to. If her Twolegs welcomed her back, it would be destined. If she had been replaced, as Vultureclaw said, she would have to go back to the forest.

The trip couldn't have been more anxious. Every step felt heavy and by the time she touched the softer and tamer land of the park, she was exhausted. It took the whole day for her to navigate, so it was dark by the time she found her way to the line of Twoleg dens.

Like a blast of memory, her paws led her exactly to her Twoleg den. It was lit with lights inside and it illuminated the place perfectly. Feathershade carefully walked across the trimmed grass and up to the front window.

The Twolegs were no where to be seen but a small bowl lay inside and was of view and had Twoleg markings. *Wolf*, was the marking across it, yet Feathershade knew not what the word meant. She only knew that they had replaced her.

In a bolt, she was in the backyard and hidden in a bush. She waited patiently until the back door slid open, and a small light gray tabby tom trotted out. The Tom perked his ears and sniffed around until his eyes met the bush Feathershade sat in.

Without a second thought, Feathershade burst out and caught the young Tom under her paws. The struggle from the Tom was weak since Feathershade was a strong warrior now. As her claws positioned her the cat's neck, the Tom let out a small grunt of

protest. Feathershade narrowed her eyes, and decided to let the young cat entertain her.

"Pllaaese.... I'm just a normal cat," the young Tom pleaded. His big Amber eyes appeared scared and apprehensive. Feathershade reluctantly let him go and sighed.

Although she expected him to scramble back into the den, he froze glaring at her. They stood for minutes examining each other until Feathershade let out a laugh and turned away.

"Go back to your Twolegs, Kittypet," she sneered with a smirk. It felt good let her anger flow. The Tom searched for a comeback but came back with weakness.

"Am not!"

"Yes you are. You're a replacement," Feathershade smirked. But the Tom was persistent and wasn't about to flee.

"No! I don't want to be a Kittypet. I'm leaving, so..I'm not a replacement," he cornered with a satisfied grin. Feathershade turned back to the Tom and nodded.

"Alright then. Let's see you leave," Feathershade replied. The Tom's jaw gaped, speechless. "I knew it. *Kittpets*, aren't brave enough to be *warriors*."

"Warriors? Ya..you're a warrior?" He asked putting terror through his veins. Feathershade's smile turned into a smirk. Maybe this Tom wasn't so bad after all. If she brought him back, she could be responsible for mentoring him.

"Are you coming along or not?" Feathershade asked as he looked toward the path to the forest. How could she have ever thought of leaving? The Tom nodded and quickly followed murmuring many questions Feathershade ignored.

"What's your name?" Feathershade finally asked as they crossed through the park. The Tom looked up with big eyes.

"It's Wolf. The rogues that pass through say I was named after dogs.

They say it makes me tough," Wolf said with a smile and a puff of his chest. Feathershade laughed and looked back at him with a challenging grin.

"I'll be the judge of that."

Early dawn, they touched ground on Mountainclan territory. Wolf had already examined many trees and seen more prey then ever before. She led the two along the path downhill until a sharp howl hit the air and two cats bounded through the brush.

"Step away Rogue!" Raspyhowl hissed standing between the two. Feathershade grunted and tried to protect when Flamepaw pounced on the young tom.

"If you hurt her I'll rip your pelt off your.."

"Flamepaw, shut up! Everyone step back," Feathershade ordered. The two cats fur fell from sharp prickles to their normal pelts. They both shared embarrassed glances but it all stopped when Feathershade began.

"I was..near the Twolegplace, and found this young Tom. He wants to be a warrior," Feathershade explained and the two cats stiffened.

"I'll go ahead and tell Redstar.. Flamepaw, you go get the Finch you dropped," Raspyhowl said taking off as soon as he could. Flamepaw nodded and followed.

Wolf grimaced and followed Feathershade into the center of camp where cats bustled in the morning. Swiftfawn who was grooming herself near the middle of the camp, looked up and frowned. Spiderfang, relieved o see his sister instantly turned at the sight of the Tom.

"What's he.."

"All cats old enough to catch a mouse, gather in the center of camp," Redstar's voice echoed over the camp. All clan members gathered except for Horsetail an Sparrowpaw whom had already departed to identify and gather herbs. Wolf started to become nervous as the many cats eyed him but Feathershade grinned. He

was just like her when she received her name.

"This young Tom, has come here wanting to become a warrior. Is that true?" Redstar questioned and Wolf swallowed and nodded throughly. "Then what is your name?"

"I'm..uh.. Wolf," he replied shyly. Swiftfawn and Jaggedclaw let out quiet laughs. Redstar sent a quieting glare then continued.

"Well then, Wolf. Do you promise to uphold the warrior code and follow Lightclan, as long as you shall live?"

"I do," Wolf said clearly and Redstar nodded.

"You shall be known as Wolfpaw from this day forward. Since she brought you here, Feathershade shall mentor you," Redstar announced giving Feathershade a grin ear to ear.

"That will be all. I'm sure that will be all for a day or two," Redstar muttered under his breath.

"Feathershade... I'm surprised your back, after what you said yesterday morning," Spiderfang replied quietly. Feathershade had instructed to show Wolfpaw around camp and the Apprentice way of life.

"I bet your disappointed," Feathershade grumbled trying to evade her brother.

"Of course I'm not!" Spiderfang fought back. Feathershade sorted and continued.

"Whatever. Forget what I said. We've got to train these apprentices," Feathershade said with a renewed smile. Spiderfang did not object at her smile. They both collected their apprentices and bounded into the woods.

"Dapplestone, how have you been the past days?" Jaggedclaw asked the tortoiseshell she cat who was enjoying a squirrel. Dapplestone had been so nice to his younger sister recently that it cheered both of them up immensely.

"Fine. I'm still recovering but the thought of new warriors brings me hope," Dapplestone replied quietly.

"I was wondering if you'd like to go hunting today? Perhaps getting out would be best for the kits," he said with a smile. Dapplestone searched for words in her gaze and swiftly found them.

"Thank you but I've promised Sparrowpaw I'd help her with camp duties. Perhaps another day," Dapplestone replied and Jaggedclaw smiled reluctant to go.

"Jaggedclaw, I think you're needed on boarder patrol," Redstar said as he came up to the two. Jaggedclaw's expression turned serious and he left. Leaving Redstar and Dapplestone alone in camp.

Dapplestone sighed and continued eating her squirrel. The kits were due in less than half a moon and she already had two new Toms at her paws. She wasn't against settling with a new Tom, for being a Queen was natural and she couldn't stand being alone. But the fact that Vulturestar had turned hateful because she had chosen another Tom over his late father.

"Dapplestone.. I hope you know, that if you ever need someone to speak to, I'm always here for you," Redstar said with shear honesty. Dapplestone nodded and tried her best to have a conservative smile.

"Yes, thank you, Redstar. I will have to take you up on that offer soon. But first, I have to help Sparrowpaw with some of her apprentice duties. After all there are only three," Dapplestone laughed as she made it to her paws.

"Not for long. I'm sure we'll have good new warriors in a moon," Redstar grinned before heading off to meet Horsetail who had just entered camp.

"Are you ready Dapplestone?" Sparrowpaw asked with a bright smile and beaming eyes. The queen nodded and looked toward Redstar.

"As ready as I'll ever be."

There is one more chapter before we skip a moon. That is all the news for now. Don't be afraid to tell me what you want from your character. Friendship, Love and personality wise.

Chapter 23

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. She's a medicine cat apprentice.

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor: Feathershade

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Expecting Patchedfur's kits.

Kit:
Riverkit- gray blue furred she kit with white tipped pass and tail. She has green eyes. 1 1/2 moon old.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Warriors:

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs and gray eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Queens:

Shystar- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes. Kits: Twistedkit (Tom), Flintkit (Tom), Blitzkit (she cat), and Fairkit (Tom)

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. Kits: Gemkit (she cat), and Bushkit (Tom)

Darkclan-

Leader: Vultureclaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Queen:
Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Expecting Vultureclaw's kits.

"Are you sure about this?" Voidfur asked with a shaky voice. If it didn't work, what would that mean for her?

"I have no choice."

"Do you know if Lightclan will speak to you?"

"I'm a leader. They have to give me lives," Vultureclaw explained to Voidfur as he headed to the Lake. He had put off going for long enough, and the clan was getting antsy. Vultureclaw knew that the other warriors wouldn't stay with him for long if he wasn't a true

leader and bared a "star" in his name.

Voidfur looked ahead at the and shivered in anticipation. He had no choice but to go to the Lake, for the cave Horsetail had once taken him to was the new Caveclan camp.

Vultureclaw shivered too, but it was more a shiver of many anxious emotions. A bulge of fear and anxiety. He wasn't one-hundred percent sure of what awaited him there. All he knew was that his father, and his father's father had walked into that cave, and came out clan leaders. A daunting heritage, surely.

"Well, this is where I leave you." Voidfur stopped at the tree line and sat, watching him expectantly.

He sighed, "Right. On my way."

Vultureclaw hoped that whatever had been plaguing his emotions ever since he had ran from Mountainclan would leave once he stepped inside the cave. He missed the familiar anger, the pride, the self-confidence that had guided him for nearly his whole life. This new feeling was like a leech, sucking out all of his confidence. He took the last steps into the dark cave, giving Voidfur one last look.

He walked to the middle of the cave floor and settled down, taking calming breaths. He quickly drifted off to sleep.
A shadowy meadow flickered around him, rippling like the waves on the lake near Mountainclan. There was only one cat in the meadow. A slim she cat, sitting in the distance. Before he could call out, a sharp pain pushed into his chest, sending him to the ground. He tried to stand, but was only capable of a crouch. The pain was excruciating, but just as quickly faded.

A large, gray tom appeared in front of him, his yellow eyes full of a cold pride. He realized with a start that it was Graystar, his father's father.

"You have not proven yourself yet. You must in time, or I will disown you as my kin. Here are your first two. For darkness and eternal rule," Graystar said in a deep voice. A pain struck him and he instantly felt colder than he had been for a long time.

Before Vultureclaw could register his words, his grandfather disappeared and a new cat took his place. A beautiful, tortoiseshell she cat. He didn't know her, but a voice in his head said that she was Turtlefur, mother of Dapplestone.

"I am your Grandmother. You will be a great leader Vulturestar, if you follow the path of light. I have no doubt you will. Here are two lives. For Compassion for young enemies, and for a loving heart," She said in a high, clear voice. Another pain pierced his heart, this one bringing him to the ground. Turtlefur disappeared.

The next cat that appeared made his heart hurt, but it wasn't from Lightclan's magic. It was a little kit, white as a cloud, and beautiful blue eyes. She stepped shyly up to Vultureclaw and smiled. It was Tulip.

"For mercy, innocence, and purity! Please stay safe, brother," she said in a tinkly voice, and another sharp pain hit him, making him gasp and shake with pain. He nearly gasped again when she disappeared.

"No! Don't go!" He cried, but she just smiled and was gone from him once more.The last cat was also a kit, but much smaller than his sister. She had fluffy, grey fur and a painfully tiny body.

He squinted at her. "Who are you?"

"Iah..I'm your daughter and Softstep's daughter," the she kit squealed and a tiny tear slid down her face.

"For humility and a long life," She squeaked. Vulture froze, expecting pain, but was surprised to feel nothing. "I love you daddy."

At his kit's last words, a pain that was unlike the others hit him. It was of loss, and greater than one he had felt before.

Lightclan around him began to grow dark and hazy, so that the meadow was nearly unintelligible. Sunlight, leader of Lightclan, appeared before him. Her face was stern as she spoke to him. Bothered, even.

"I, Sunlight, hereby declare you as Vulturestar, forever. Lead your to the extend of your abilities, and keep your clan strong. However," She leaned forward, her blue eyes intense. "It is of the utmost importance that you keep your clan on the right path. Lightclan will not be there to guide you if you happen to fail in doing this."

Vulturestar flinched at her gaze, but as the she cat looked at him, the horrible anxiety that had plagued his heart had disappeared. He was a Leader now, he realized, he had done what he set out to do. The familiar feeling of confidence and pride has filled him like a cool drink of water. He even felt like his cunning had returned, despite how dull his senses had felt before.

"What happened to my kits?" He demanded. The tiny, gray kit with no name had bothered him.

"Softstep gave birth to them yesterday. One died, two lived," Sunlight explained, "A beautiful girl and strong boy, though neither will live a life like yours."

"What did you mean by 'if Darkclan fails'?" Vulturestar questioned, "How can we fail?"

"You will have to find that out for yourself, *Vulturestar*," Sunlight said. Her tone was of a fierce warning. His vision went black.

Vulturestar rose from the shore of the lake and looked back at Voidfur. He walked up to her feeling quite different than he had came. She looked with wide eyes wanting answers but he wasn't going to answer any.

"We won't take any action for a moon. We will strike then, and we will take my kits back."

Chapter 24

-One moon has passed-

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. She's a medicine cat apprentice.

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor: Feathershade

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. **Kits**: Thornkit (she cat), Silverkit (she cat), Tearkit (she cat), Palekit (she cat), Tinykit (she cat)

Kit:
Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Two moons.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Warriors:

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs and gray eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Queens:

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes. **Kits**: Twistedkit (Tom), Flintkit (Tom), Blitzkit (she cat), and Fairkit (Tom)

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. Kits: Gemkit (she cat), and Bushkit (Tom)

Darkclan-

Leader: Vultureclaw- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Queen:
Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. **Kits**: Shadowkit (Tom), Rainkit (she cat), Herbkit (she cat), Bubblekit (she cat)

Shadowkit watched intensely from the bramble bush, trying to ignore the sharp tips of the plant. The white furred Tom was scrawny but Shadowkit was intent on watching his battle with the large brown and white tabby tom, who was twice his size.

"Come on, you've already got the move. I'm only going to beat you Ghostpelt," Oakstripe said with a bit of reluctance. Ghostpelt shook his head and bounced around energized.

"I'm ready. You go first," Ghostpelt ordered. Oakstripe shrugged and

bounded toward him with no fear. Ghostpelt dodged Oaktripe's strike and rolled to the side, trying to claw at his belly. Oakstripe saw this and hit him with a forceful paw, that sent him back.

Ghostpelt growled and pounced forward at a last attempt, but Oakstripe grabbed his scruff and threw him to the ground. When all seemed lost for Ghostpelt, his hind legs shot up and hit Oakstripe who was towering over him. The bigger Tom fell back and Ghostpelt swiftly placed his paws near the tom's throat.

"Wow! That was amazing," Shadowkit bursted out, not fully realizing his folly. Both toms turned and grimaced at the sight. Voidfur, watching from the side lines, bursted from her spot and started to scold the kit.

"What has your mother and father said several times over? You cannot leave the nursery!" Voidfur yelled and harshly grabbed the scruff of the young Tom. The toms had been training above the camp, on the Bear Stones.

"But.."

"Give him a break, we were close by," Ghostpelt said with a bit of empathy. Voidfur narrowed her eyes and dropped Shadowkit who landed with a thud.

"Fine. Let his mother or father find out. You two are responsible for him," Voidfur grunted before leaving the Bear Rocks to go back to the camp. Shadowkit followed Voidfur down into the tunnel that led to a low valley with small stone overhangs. It was not a cave but similar to one.

"Shadowkit! Where in Lightclan were you?" Nightsky shouted as she rushed to her kit. She grabbed him by the scruff quite hastily and brought him to the nursery.

"Why does *he* get to go out?" Bubblekit accused with a jealous glare. Nightsky scoffed and looked toward the others.

"He's not allowed to," she corrected and started rasping her tongue across her fur. Shadowkit snarled as his mother attempted cleaning

his fur while his sisters laughed.

"Mother, Herbkit also left too. She said she was going to go collect Daisy stems," Rainkit mentioned with a smirk. Nightsky looked at all of them and sighed.

"How am I supposed to care for all of you? You know how important you are to the Clan and your father. Stay here, I'm going to find Herbkit," Nightsky said as she stalked out of the nursery. Shadowkit, Bubblekit and Rainkit exchanged uncomfortable glances until Herbkit and Nightsky returned. She looked at them will gleaming eyes than smiled.

"You are only one moon and a few days. I can't keep nursing and following you everywhere for much longer," Nightsky explained with a sigh. All the kits narrowed their eyes in confusion and disbelief.

"I'm moving back to the Warriors den. We've got trouble I need help prepare for and your four need to stay safe and out of the way of," Nightsky ordered and they all stood in protest.

"What! We need to help you!" Bubblekit shouted and Shadowkit nodded strongly. Rainkit sat back and looked at her paws while Herbkit began to become distressed.

"Mommy.. You won't sleep with us anymore.. I don't want to have my own nest," Herbkit whimpered and Nightsky pressed her kit close to her. The conversation was not going well and Nightsky wished Vulturestar would've been around.

"I'll still be around. Who knows, maybe if I have another litter I'll be coming back soon," Nightsky said a bit dreadfully. She didn't want to be a Queen forever, but it seemed Vulturestar was making it that way.

"Can we go play with Earthfoot? We promise to stay in camp!" Rainkit begged with continuous pleads from Bubblekit and Shadowkit. She nodded and they were gone before she could say anything. Herbkit instead snuggled into her best without a word. Nightsky left the nursery and made her way to the leader's den. She

didn't make it across camp when a cat intercepted her.

"Where are you going? I thought you were with the kits?" Vulturestar asked as he came up from behind her. He nuzzled his muzzle into her fur but she pulled back abruptly. His eyes were wide with confusion when she began to speak.

"I just wanted to ask you something. I don't want us to get carried away," she muttered with restraint. He nodded a bit taken aback then led them into his den. "I've been wanting to go back into the Warriors den."

Vulturestar's thoughtful glance instantly turned dark. He shook his head and his eyes clouded. Nightsky shifted in frustration as he found his words.

"No. No, I'm sorry Nightsky, but we need you and the kits to stay safe throughout this. You're the future of this clan and I refuse to put you in danger," Vulturestar stated firmly before he began to lick her cheek. Nightsky sighed and did the same when she heard a squeal outside. They both stopped and he looked up hopefully. Nightsky nodded, and Vulturestar exited the den.

"Daddy! Will you please play with us?" Bubblekit shrieked charging toward her father. They were all so tiny that their pouncing attempts were feeble. Vulturestar grinned but quickly discouraged their attempts.

"What did I ask you to call me?" Vulturestar asked calmly and Bubblekit pulled back in embarrassment. Shadowkit and Rainkit both sat up straighter then.

"Yes, Vulturestar," Shadowkit replied formally and his father smiled.

"Good. Now, perhaps if you four stay in camp I'll tell you some more stories tonight. Your mother and I must go hunting," Vulturestar said causing the kits expressions to droop. On the other side of camp, Voidfur and Maliceflame chuckled and Nightsky tried to mask her embarrassment.

"I trust you'll look after them, Voidfur and Maliceflame," Vulturestar

said leaving both gaping. Nightsky and Vulturestar then left in smirks.

Voidfur scowled and looked toward Maliceflame who shrugged. Then they turned to the kits who once excited were now changing their minds. The silent glares were agonizing, between the five. It was a challenge that Bubblekit was the first to retreat from.

"Pff, stupid pelts," she muttered and stomped off to the nursery. Shadowkit mindlessly followed her, uncomfortably. However, Rainkit still sat with a challenging glare inspecting the two. Out of the kits, Shadowkit and Rainkit were the biggest. Rainkit proved to be the most intelligent, always seeking for answers but following rules while doing so.

"You know, scowling doesn't make you pretty," Rainkit informed while Voidfur let out a hiss.

"And being an entitled snob won't make you an apprentice," Maliceflame snapped. Rainkit turned and left quite grandly. The two she cats exchanged exhausted glances before speaking.

"They're ridiculous. Almost as worse as... nevermind," Voidfur whispered with a grunt, but Maliceflame was not one to let things go by.

"Tell me," she said, sending curious eyes. Voidfur sighed and decided she could trust Maliceflame. The she cat wasn't too fond of the young leader, but her son was.

"I was a Kittypet, before the clan life, or do they called me. I was born in a barn, near Twolegs but they never cared for us. My littermates they were horrible. My mother left us after we could eat fresh kill, and my siblings kept me around as the runt. I can't tell you how much these kits remind me of them. Except Herbkit, she's the only saving grace of that litter," Voidfur explained before setting her head on her paws. Maliceflame nodded and looked at her.

"I've already had a litter. Three kits, Werner or as you know, Ghostpelt. Another tom, that was bitten by a rat, and died. Then... Ida. She left me when she was two moons. She was... testy,"

Maliceflame explained with difficulty. She barely ever showed emotion so Voidfur felt greatly honored that she did to her.

"Voidfur, how about take an easy? You're only, what? 15 moons, maybe 16? Don't worry about kits until you've been a mother..."

"I'll never be a mother! No, never," Voidfur declared then started to laugh. Maliceflame smirked but she still was not convinced.

When she first arrived, Maliceflame was happy at her son's invitation. Her optimism left when she met Vulturestar. Ghostpelt was loyal and adored him, but Maliceflame couldn't see why. Their leader was far to young, entitled and was the splitting image of his children. He was a manipulative child, and he used every cat that came around. Maliceflame knew the only reason he kept Nightsky around was for his kits. *Toms do not know love...* Maliceflame silently acknowledged from time to time.

Voidfur shortly left to nap in her den and Maliceflame watched the camp intently. Things were quiet, so much that it left Maliceflame searching for another cat. Oakstripe and Ghostpelt shortly returned.

"How'd battle training go?" Maliceflame questioned with a raised eyebrow. Ghostpelt laughed then his expression fell.

"Horrible. I'm going to sleep," Ghostpelt replied and crawled off to the warrior's den. Oakstripe smiled and looked at Maliceflame.

"He did fine. I don't know why..."

"Ghostpelt is very competitive. He's always been like that. So where are the other cats?" She asked while standing and stretching. Half the clan seemed to be out or asleep.

"Nightjet, Sleetpool, and Earthfoot all went on hunting and boarder patrol. And Lostpath was down by the lake. That Tom is... unique. He's always muttering things to himself and I swear, his eyes are nuts," Oakstripe said with a bit of humor. Maliceflame ended up grinning in the end. The two sat peacefully until evening.

Thanks for reading!
There were some mistakes in the past Allegiances. Sleetpool is a she cat.

That's all!

Chapter 25

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor:

Feathershade

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Thornkit(she cat), Tallkit (Tom), Silverkit (she cat), Palekit (she cat), Tinykit (she cat)

Kit:
Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. 2 moons old.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Warriors:

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs and gray eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Queens:

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes. Kits: Twistedkit (Tom), Flintkit (Tom), Blitzkit (she cat), and Fairkit (Tom)

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. Kits: Gemkit (she cat), and Bushkit (Tom)

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Queen:
Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Kits: Shadowkit (Tom), Rainkit (she cat), Herbkit (she cat), Bubblekit (she cat)

Flamepaw placed each step carefully before her. The buzzing of the forest was blocked out as she slowly crouched into position. Time was still with each step she took. The cream bundle of fur up ahead had its ears perked in anticipation, but did not expect the enemy to be so near. In a flash, Flamepaw darted forward and caught the enemy unaware.

"Eeekkk! Help...pfff," the kit screeched until Flamepaw muffle her voice with her tail. The small kit looked up with fear but quickly it turned into a small, as Flamepaw backed off.

"How did you get me? I stepped on the grass, just like you said!" Palekit exclaimed, looking up in awe. Flamepaw snickered and looked at the little she cat.

"Well.. Spiderfang taught me a few tricks about scents. And first of all.. if you want to stay hidden, you have to cover your scent," Flamepaw explained gesturing toward the nearest mud pile. Palekit's expression twisted into revolt and disgust. She shook her head fiercely as Flamepaw laughed.

"Dapplestone just cleaned us this morning! No way I'm getting one again..."

"Hush, or the others will hear you. This is a game of stealth, remember," Flamepaw reminded as she looked around the bright green forest. Palekit giggle and nodded her head.

"Of course. Sorry," she whispered, following the apprentice a tree length. It wasn't long before they heard a snap and rushed paw steps. Flamepaw was following the kits in a dart while Palekit hurried to keep up.

"Run Tallkit! Run!" Silverkit shouted as Flamepaw grabbed her with her front paws and stopped her in a smash. They both rolled against the forest floor. Silverkit sighed as Flamepaw got right back up and raced after Tallkit, whom she just as quickly apprehended.

"This game isn't fair. You're an apprentice and we're only two moons old," Tallkit mentioned as he trailed back after Flamepaw. The fiery she cat sighed and looked around.

"It's a game. You almost as tall as Riverkit, Tallkit. So you shouldn't be complaining," Palekit added on and the she cats nodded. Tallkit shrugged and Flamepaw finally turned to them.

"Let's go closer to camp, I guarantee they would've stayed close," Flamepaw proposed and they all followed. Each cat sniffed intently and it ended in the discovering of Riverkit, perched on a small tree.

"Darn it!" Riverkit shouted as she leaped down. The others giggled until one of the kits shrieked.

"I smell Thornkit! She's near here!" Silverkit said and Flamepaw whipped her head around as the she cat crashed into her. The gray tabby she cat was smaller than her but was strong. They quarreled until Flamepaw finally threw her off pinned her to the ground with her paw.

"Got you," Flamepaw smirked but Thornkit just growled.

"I would've won if Silverkit hadn't firm me away! I can't believe I lost to Tinykit," Thornkit snarled as she got to her feet. Her other litter mates didn't respond but shared the same agreement. Tinykit never won anything.

"Alright you win, Tinykit..."

"Yeah, come out already!"

"Where did she go?"

The kits all continued calling out theories while Flamepaw made her way back to camp. The trail was lined with tall trees that reached to the skies. None of the trees compared with the mountain line north of camp. The mountains truly touched the skies, and no cat had yet explored the heights.

In the past moon, boarders had been set but Flamepaw and most of the cats had no encounters with the other clans. Tensions seemed to have cooled down and no cats had shown hostility lately. Dapplestone's new litter was a great joy and distraction for the clan. Only Tallkit was a tom, and he seemed to already shared his father's appearance. Palekit was a cream she cat, and Silverkit was a cream she cat with silver patches that made her a unique tortoiseshell. Thornkit was the oldest and a gray tabby she cat while Tinykit was a small black she cat with green eyes who happened to be the runt.

When Flamepaw entered camp she closely examined the camp. The leader's den was in the hole of a large oak tree. A broken log led down from it like a ramp. To the right of the tallest oak was a pile of brush that created the medicine cat den. Inside it led down into two tunnels that included the storage of herbs, and nesting. The middle of camp lie the fresh kill pile and to the far west of camp

laid the dens.

As Flamepaw inhaled she caught a distant scent of one of the kits. Her senses narrowed toward the medicine cat den where thick vines curled between the leader's den and the medicine cat den. Flamepaw walked up to it until she was inches away. Two emerald spheres appeared out of no where and she let out a laugh.

"Found you."

Tinykit slipped out of the thick vines and out into the camp. Her pelt was ruffled and a few burrs were now embedded in her fur. She was about to say something when other shouts interrupted.

"Why'd you hide? That's not allowed?" Tallkit accused and Tinykit scoffed in return.

"How is that not allowed?" Tinykit asked with exasperation. Palekit, Riverkit, and Silverkit had already left for the nursery, eager to stay out of it.

"It's cowardice! There's no strength, bravery or skill in hiding," Thornkit explained making Tinykit's eyes go misty. Flamepaw sighed and stood between the three.

"Enough. I thought this would be fun..."

"It was fun!" Tallkit assured while Thornkit glared at Tinykit. Flamepaw sent them all stern glares before se turned.

"I won't play with you kits if you act this way. I could be training with Spiderfang..."

"We're sorry Flamepaw.. we are," Tinykit squeaked before darting off toward the nursery. Tallkit left without another word while Thornkit stood tall.

"I'm not sorry," Thornkit replied before trotting away. Flamepaw sighed, grabbed a Vole and tried to enjoy the rest of her day off.

Sparrowpaw, on the other hand, was at full speed as she rushed to collect the herbs Horsetail had recently taught her. Since Flamepaw

was beginning battle training, along with the other warrior, they needed herbs to specialize in cuts. The whole situation put Horsetail on edge. Sparrowpaw had grown to understand Horsetail quite a lot. When he was anxious, or stressed he couldn't function and would need rest. And when he was happy, he often wanted to take time away from teaching. The old medicine cat slept a lot, so Sparrowpaw had to find help for carrying herbs.

Sparrowpaw always chose her sister first, since their time together was so limited nowadays. But today Flamepaw had promised the kits a day of the "Hunted" game. And Sparrowpaw knew that getting the kits worn out was more important for the entire clan's progress. Many of the Warriors set out for normal boundary and hunting duties. At the time, only Spottedpelt was free to help but agreed kindly.

"So what do these herbs do?" Spottedpelt asked as Sparrowpaw gently tore the Marigold from its root. And placed it on the ivy leaf which helped them carry.

"Well, if you chew up the juice in Marigold and spit it into the wounds, it helps heal cuts. We also need to go get some more cobwebs," Sparrowpaw informed as Spottedpelt's eyes lit up.

"I know the perfect place. It's covered with them," Spottedpelt explained as he led them east toward the territory's streams. Sparrowpaw examined the many cobwebs as they pawed them down and placed them on the leaf.

"This is the worst," Spottedpelt said boldly as the cobwebs stuck to his pelt. Sparrowpaw shrugged and continued placing the webs on the leaf until it seemed she had collected two of the three items.

"Now.. I just need to find Juniper berries....and.."

"What are these red berries?" Spottedpelt asked as Sparrowpaw continued to search for the berries. Once she fully processed the information she whipped around to see him sniffing them.

"Don't! Horsetail said to never touch the Red berries!" Sparrowpaw panicked seeing that she was letting a cat neglect one of his most

important rules. Spottedpelt instantly stepped back and they both glared at the scarlet berries intently.

"What do they do?" He asked quietly as they headed back to the herbs already collected. Sparrowpaw shrugged and glanced back.

"I don't know. He never said."

Back at camp, Spiderfang, Smoketalon, and Raspyhowl had just returned from boarder patrol. All of the toms were exhausted and ready to take naps in their nest. But as soon as they sat down a cat dashed through the north entrance of camp.

"Caveclan! There's Caveclan cats.. coming to see Redstar!" Wolfpaw panted as more figures were coming through the camp barrier and into camp. Feathershade and Swiftfawn escorted the Coldstar, Icywind, and Leapinghare into camp.

The few clan members at camp stood defensively and eyed the presence of the Caveclan cats. While Redstar was being fetched Spiderfang walked up to make introductions, but the kits had beat him to it.

"Enemy clan! Attack!" Thornkit shouted and she barreled into Coldstar, who didn't flinch. Instead she looked down at the kit curiously and smiled.

"Thornkit! It's just Caveclan. Get back in the nursery or Dapplestone will kill us!" Riverkit demanded, trying to restraint the younger kits, but the new cats were too much excitement. Palekit and Silverkit shared glances of awe while Tinykit smiled softly. Tallkit snorted at the leader and stalked back to the den.

"I'm so sorry, their mother is hunting," Spiderfang apologized but Icywind and Coldstar laughed.

"No need. We have six back at camp that won't stop getting into trouble," Coldstar said with a grin. Icywind grinned brightly at Spiderfang and he grinned back. They had been meeting in secret almost every other night, just like they promised. Not being in the same clan was making it difficult, but it was possible.

"How is everyone?" Spiderfang asked respectively, as if he didn't know.

"It's great Spiderfang. We really do miss your friendships, yours Dapplestone's and Swiftfawn's. It's a shame you had to leave really..."

"As I remember.. it was you who left *Coldstar*," Feathershade remarked with a smirk, and Swiftfawn shared a cold glare in agreement. The leader smirked and sat up tall.

"It was their plan to have a rogue leader all along. Lightclan isn't ruled by favoritism," Coldstar replied while sending a sharp glare to where Horsetail was watching cooly. The kits looked up with confusion and tensions were heated until Spiderfang spoke.

"Why are you here?" Spiderfang asked calmly. Coldstar turned her sharp Crimson eyes back to him.

"We came to speak with Redstar.. about Clan matters.."

"What about Clan matters?" Redstar interrupted as he trotted back into camp with his head held high. His dark red fur was still damp, after fishing for trout. Smoketalon and Raspyhowl both followed him until camp. At the presence of almost the whole Clan, Coldstar seemed to have panic in her eyes.

"Perhaps, somewhere more private would be better," Coldstar requested getting a scoff from Swiftfawn who wouldn't make eye contact with Leapinghare. Icywind followed Coldstar along with Redstar an Spiderfang into his den, where they sat calmly.

"I'm sorry I never had the opportunity to introduce myself properly before you left. I'm leader of Mountainclan now," Redstar explained as she bore no expression. Icywind seemed bright, seeing that Redstar was not the lies told about him.

"I'm Coldstar, leader of Caveclan. This is Icywind one of our Warriors, and Leapinghare is also one," she said gesturing to the pure white she cat and the cream Tom that sat silently at the entrance. Redstar nodded and acknowledged them before turning to

Coldstar.

"So what to we have the pleasure of your aquantince, today?" Redstar asked with a smile. Coldstar bowed her he's before beginning.

"It has come to my attention that one of our queens... has had kits with a.. dangerous Tom. The litter is one tom and one she cat. The she cat looks nothing like the father..but the Tom looks exactly like the father," Coldstar began uneasily while Spiderfang tried to compose his shock. *Was Nightsky still with Caveclan*? Redstar nodded with a composed stature, not making any judgements at the moment.

"What I'm trying to say is..that this Tom kit, will not be safe in Caveclan. The she cat and I believe that he will be safe among another litter where the origins will not be questioned if they ever come to you. If Dapplestone, imparticularly, could take the Tom kit on... both the she cat and I would be very greatful," Coldstar finished in a worried tone. Spiderfang could see the stress this had put on the leader and the cats of her clan.

"Alright. That doesn't seem hard, but I will ask Dapplestone before I can promise you. Spiderfang would you help lead our guest our," Redstar said with a smile. Spiderfang agreed as started to lead Icywind and Leapinghare out of camp.

"Thank you, Spiderfang. It was nice seeing you again," Icywind said with a grin. Spiderfang smiled also and sighed.

"You too. Make sure you keep those kits safe," Spiderfang said as Leapinginghare darted off and Icywind slowly walked that way before stopping. She turned back and pressed her nose to his before stepping away.

"Spiderfang... I'm having your kits," she whispered before darting off toward Caveclan. Spiderfang was left dumbstruck at the north exit of camp when he heard two voices coming toward him.

"If you don't mind me asking.. who is the father?" Redstar whispered with curiosity as Coldstar tensed.

"Please, don't tell anyone. But.. Vulturestar is the father," Coldstar replied before darting off toward her camp without another word. Spiderfang was left with far too many questions that day.

Hey Warrior Cats fan! I hope you've enjoyed this chapter.

If I see more reads than comments I'll cry, tell me something!

Chapter 26

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor:

Feathershade

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Thornkit(she cat), Tallkit (Tom), Silverkit (she cat), Palekit (she cat), Tinykit (she cat)

Kit:
Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. 2 moons old.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Warriors:

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs and gray eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Queens:

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes. Kits: Twistedkit (Tom), Flintkit (Tom), Blitzkit (she cat), and Fairkit (Tom)

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. Kits: Gemkit (she cat), and Bushkit (Tom)

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Queen:
Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Kits: Shadowkit (Tom), Rainkit (she cat), Herbkit (she cat), Bubblekit (she cat)

"Okay, Jaggedclaw! You can do this! Just watch out for Redstar, come out charming, and make your move!" Jaggedclaw coaxed himself, peeking at Dapplestone from behind the big rock. She was talking casually with Swiftfawn, with no sign of Redstar.
He strode over, keeping his expression nice, charismatic even. Dapplestone would surely accept his offer. Her kits were almost a moon old, so she wouldn't have to hover over them all the time.

"Hey Dapplestone! Swiftfawn! What's up?" He asked cheerfully. Dapplestone smiled and Swiftfawn giggled and said, "Nothing much.

We were just talking about the apprentices. What's up with you?"

"Nothing," Jaggedclaw smiled and looked at Dapplestone. "Hey, I wanted to know if you would like to go hunting? I figured it might be good to get out of camp."

Dapplestone and Swiftfawn exchanged knowing glances, and Dapplestone nodded. "Yeah," she said.

Swiftfawn smirked and walked, but not before shooting Dapplestone another look. Dapplestone looked at Jaggedclaw curiously, weighing his offer. It annoyed her that she thought of what Redstar would think if she went hunting with Jaggedclaw. Why did she care so much? The clan came first, and Jaggedclaw seemed like a nice, normal cat.

"I'd love to go hunting with you," Dapplestone said enthusiastically. Jaggedclaw's eyes widened, and he smiled happily. "That's great! Is now a good time?"

"Well, I'll have to check on my kits first, but that should only take a second," Dapplestone promised, and quickly ran to the nest where her kits were.
Thornkit was rough-housing with her sister, Silverkit, while Tallkit and Palekit were in the back of the nest, trying to rip each other's ears apart. Tinykit was sitting shyly by herself, but her expression brightened when she saw her mother.

"Momma!" She cheered, and ran over to her mom. Dapplestone nuzzled her with a smile. Tinykit reminded her so much of another Tulip.

"Oh hey!" Thornkit squealed, and ran with the rest of her siblings to greet Dapplestone.

"I can't stay long," Dapplestone said, "I have to go in a few moments."

"Awww," Palekit sighed. She was trying to climb Dapplestone like the she climbed everything. "Whyyy?"

"She's going hunting," Thornkit said knowingly, "With Jaggedclaw!"

The other kits made gagging sounds, forcing a laugh from Dapplestone. Silverkit smiled and glanced toward Palekit who giggled. Tallkit made a gagging sound as he was the only Tom of the kits.

"How did you know, Thornkit?" Dapplestone asked. Her daughter fluffed up her fur and smiled proudly.
"She cats just know these things," she said with a big grin.

"Well," Dapplestone smiled, "I suppose I'd better leave you she cats to your business then!" Dapplestone gave her kits a parting nuzzle and left the nest. Jaggedclaw was waiting just outside.

"They sure are something," he said misty eyed. Dapplestone nodded.

"They certainly are, but I wish they would stop taking she cat advice from Horsetail," Dapplestone said with a smirk. Jaggedclaw nodded.

"Where's Riverkit? I didn't see her in there," Dapplestone asked as Jaggedclaw grinned.

"Wolfpaw and Flamepaw wanted to teach her some moss ball moves," Jaggedclaw replied searching Dapplestone's face. As most toms, they never stopped staring at Dapplestone. Although Swiftfawn and Feathershade were beautiful she cats, Dapplestone carried herself a different and more attractive way.

They ran into the forest, and were quickly caught up in the scents up fresh prey. It was everywhere! As they ran through the trees, both cats glanced at the other, when the other cat wasn't looking. Dapplestone knew what Jaggedclaw wanted, but wasn't sure if she wanted to say yes to his advances.

Up ahead of her, Jaggedclaw was lowered into a crouch. Dapplestone crouched as well, and watched, impressed, as he quickly ran down a hare. He did it in a blur, and Dapplestone jumped when the hare squealed.
He came back with it in his jaws, trying to grin and hold the animal at the same time.

"That was good!" Dapplestone said, trying not to sound surprised. Everyone said that Jaggedclaw was a good hunter, but she had never seen his skills before.

"Oh this?" Jaggedclaw said after dropping the hare, "It was nothing! I can catch all kinds of stuff."

Dapplestone looked at him coyly. "Oh yeah? Can you catch...," She looked around for some difficult prey, and saw a large hare about a hundred footsteps away. "Can you catch that hare?" She whispered.

Jaggedclaw looked at the hare, his eyes gleaming. He didn't say a word. Jaggedclaw simply took a few quiet, slow steps forward and crouched. The hare didn't see him yet. Dapplestone went and quietly climbed up an old oak so as better to see the action without disturbing the hunt.
Jaggedclaw was a few paces away when the rabbit broke into a run. Thinking fast, Jaggedclaw jumped forward and snagged the rabbits left ear. The creature squealed in pain, kicking at him with its long feet. Jaggedclaw deftly held the struggling hare down with both paws and bit its neck. It slowly stopped kicking, and after a few seconds went still.

Dapplestone's eyes widened in amazement. Very few cats could catch a hare once it bolted. But it wouldn't do telling Jaggedclaw this. Nobody like a special snowflake.

"That was good," She called down from the tree, "but we should probably focus on getting more prey, Jaggedclaw."

Jaggedclaw grinned up at her and nodded. "Okay," he said, and darted off into the forest. Dapplestone kept to the trees, her eyes focused on the search for birds.
She pounced at several robins, but couldn't catch any. She frowned unhappily at this. Her moon in the kitting den had made her soft. So she instead resigned herself to the ground once more. There she caught a few voles and
even an inattentive hare. She put the animals in a pile with the first hare Jaggedclaw had caught. After a while, Jaggedclaw returned, carrying some voles. He put them down on the pile and sat, smiling.

"I'm really glad you wanted to come hunting with me," he said with an easier confidence. "It was fun."

"I'm glad I came as well. Horsetail wanted me to take it slow, but I think that if I had to spend one more day in that nest I would go crazy," She laughed and sent s glance at the nursery.

"Are you going to stay with them for much longer? Seeing Riverkit eat mice, might make them jealous. Maybe one more moon.. but I miss patrols," she said with a smile. Jaggedclaw nodded with understanding. He couldn't imagine being sentenced to a life in the nursery. It was stuffy and smelled like milk.

A cracking of branched in the distance made them freeze. Something heavy had been walking nearby. Neither cat spoke. They simply crept up the old oak and went quietly from branch to branch, going in the direction of the sound. They came to a patch of brush, where a coyote lay dead, its side and neck slashed open. Dapplestone's breath caught in her throat.

"There are coyotes in the woods," Jaggedclaw hissed, his hair standing on end. Dapplestone shook her head.

"I've never seen one come this far into the forest. They prefer to stay near the twoleg places so that they can scavenge the trash," Dapplestone added. Her face was confusion struck.

Jaggedclaw, after looking around, jumped down from the tree and inspected the coyote. It was small for its kind, but still bigger than him. It was a fresh kill, its open wounds not yet covered with flies.

"I think that something just killed it. But there isn't anything in this forest that could do this!"Dapplestone nodded in agreement.

"Yes. We should tell Mountainclan. Even if this coyote died in a fight with its kin, they have to know these animals are getting closer."

Jaggedclaw saw some claw marks up on the coyote's head. He put his paw onto the clawmarks.

"What are you doing?" Dapplestone asked nervously.

He looked up at her with alarm. "This wasn't a coyote, Dapplestone."

"What! How could it not be?" Dapplestone jumped down and stood next to Jaggedclaw, who showed her the claw marks, and how easily his own claws fit in them.

"Those are cat claws," He said, "A cat killed this coyote."

"A cat?" Dapplestone said, alarmed. "But who?" As the two darted back to camp to spread the news, a dark cat lurked out of the shadows.

Lostpath's claws were still wet with the blood of the Coyote. He examined the carcass once again and grinned. Now Vulturestar would see his potential. While he was tending to his mating duties, Voidfur had called Lostpath out to complete a secret mission.

"I need you to strike fear. Don't kill a cat yet.. but scare them. If we divert their attention to the lake boaders.. we can easily slip into both territories through the north," Voidfur had said earlier in the day. Lostpath had happily agreed to something such as this, as it was his duty. Some cat needed to do the dirty work, and Lostpath loved to be that cat.

As he slinked through the forest and across to Darkclan's boarders he smelt a familiar scent and soon met, Nightjet. The jet black Tom was a curious one, and far too suspicious to be trusted. He was from another clan before, Darkclan so he wasn't easily manipulated.

"What were you doing on Mountainclan territory?" Nightjet asked with a raised eyebrow. Lostpath let out a hiss and sized up the Tom. Who is he to push me around?

"What I was ordered too! Do you have a problem with me following my leader's orders?" Lostpath challenged with a growl. Nightjet stepped back calmly and swallowed.

"No. I obviously had you mistaken. I'll continue hunting," Nightjet said, quickly evading a dispute. He had made a few friends in Darkclan, but overall, something was strange.

Vulturestar often spoke about an upcoming battle, and taking back the land that was Darkclan's. Nightjet did not see what the dispute was for. There was enough land for hundreds of cats and Nightjet had not even encountered another Clan cat. *Why did he want to fight*? The Tom constantly wondered. Nightjet did not think he was the only one that thought this way. Sleetpool and Earthfoot were happy to be apart of a clan, but seemed as confused as Nightjet.

Hunting was productive for him, he slunk against the Bear rocks and watched a rabbit intently. He was crouched and ready to pounce when he caught something in the right corner of his eye. A large bird of prey shot down toward the rabbit. Nightjet still shocked, shot forward and leaped onto the Hawk as its talons met the rabbit. The rabbit squealed as the Hawk's talons shut on its jugular. The Hawk flapped furiously, trying to rid itself of Nightjet, but he latched on persistently. He struggled to clamp his jaw onto the bird's neck, but when he did it fell limp. As the three dropped, Nightjet rolled off and fell on his feet. How will I drag them back?

After an hour, dragging the carcasses back, he managed to drop them in the hollow and follow them there. The clan already having their evening fresh-kill were more than flabbergasted.

"That's amazing!" Bubblekit shrieked with a gleeful voice. And Rainkit nodded profusely, along with the other kits. Shadowkit snorted and walked up to Nightjet.

"I can do better any day," Shadowkit sneered until Nightsky hushed him with a flick of her tail. The Warriors of the clan were truly amazed, yet some shared expressions of resentment.

"That's amazing, Nightjet! Well done," Vulturestar said loudly. Sleetpool, Earthfoot and Malifeflame also have him approving nods while Ghostpelt insisted that he'd teach him the next day. The only cats that bore resenting glares were Voidfur and Lostpath whom were sharing a rabbit. The rest of the night was filled with chatter, and how he managed to catch both in one hunt. Voidfur, on the other hand, did her best to discourage the conversation.

"I'm sure any cat would've caught that being in the same situation," Voidfur remarked slyly but Nightjet didn't deny it or reply to the

deputy. Vulturestar, on the other hand, was confused at the hostility.

"We are all Darkclan. We support our own but none others.. Act like a clanmate, will you Voidfur?" Vulturestar said before turning back to Nightsky and his kits who were sharing a thrush. Voidfur, terribly frustrated, left for the Warrior's den. *How can they treat me this way? I'm deputy*.. Voidfur thought sourly, as she faded into her dreaming.

Instead of her normal dreams, she woke in a murky forest with dark shadows and almost no source of light. She stood and sniffed the air, it didn't smell like the forest, so she must be dreaming. As she took more paces, she heard a loud howl behind her, and snaps of what sounded like bones. Her eyes darted to the forest behind her. Suddenly a large shadow bolted toward her yet she froze with fear. A transparent Wolf raced straight through her and away. It was running from something that Voidfur could not see clearly in the shadows until it wanted itself to be known.

"Voidfur.. do you know why your here?" A tom's harsh voice said, in an indistinguishable shadow. She whipped her head around, searching for the source intently, when claws pierced pelt and she was crushed against the ground. The Tom was not gentle, as he dug his claws into her pelt.

"No! Get off!" She grunted, trying to remember the moves she had been taught. In a quick movement, she pushed back with her hind legs and got out of the hold. She faced a large gray Tom with thin dark stripes and blue eyes.

"You are naïve to think that my grandson will let you lead. If you train with me, you will be ready to claim leadership when he falls," the giant gray Tom explained, while Voidfur glared with her beady eyes.

"You're.. Vulturestar's kin. Why would you help me then..."

"For Darkclan. I am Graystar, leader of Darkclan. Lightclan is misleading cats, and letting them live without strength and leaders. Redstar and Coldstar are not leaders. My son is not a true leader.

The clans need leaders willing to sacrifice everything, to further the Clans. And the Warriors need undoubtable loyalty," he explained with an exhausted huff. Voidfur rose at this idea and looked at the old Tom with pleading eyes.

"Train me. I will be the leader the Clans deserve..."

"Do you swear? Do you swear to sacrifice the weak to prosper the strong? Even kits?" Graystar challenged with a smirk. Voidfur nodded but was taken on surprise when he once again took her to the ground.

"First thing you must learn, is to be big, even when your not. If they are stronger than you.. lie, use your words to manipulate them. Every cat has a weaknesses.. find them," Graystar ordered as his large front paw crushed against her cheek. Then, he let her go and disappeared into the nearest shadow.

"Come back tomorrow night."

Congrats everyone! We're #1 in Warrior Cat Roleplays! Whoohoo!

The new cover was loved by many of you. So we shall keep that.

Chapter 27

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor:

Feathershade

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Thornkit(she cat), Tallkit (Tom), Silverkit (she cat), Palekit (she cat), Tinykit (she cat)

Kit:
Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. 2 moons old.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Warriors:

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs and gray eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Queens:

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes. Kits: Twistedkit (Tom), Flintkit (Tom), Blitzkit (she cat), and Fairkit (Tom)

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. Kits: Gemkit (she cat), and Bushkit (Tom)

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Queen:
Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Kits: Shadowkit (Tom), Rainkit (she cat), Herbkit (she cat), Bubblekit (she cat)

It had been a week since Coldstar had made the deal with Redstar, and now on the night of the half moon, they were ready to make the exchange. Dapplestone had already agreed to nurse the kit and Softstep had had no change in her decision.

Coldstar rose from Darktide's and hers den as made her way across camp. She sent a silent nod to Frostycloud, who was quiet and watchful over the clan at nights. It usually rotated between each cat, but no one really minded the peace. Coldstar continued through a few tunnels, to the nursery. When she entered, Shymask had her

four kits curled against her belly. Softstep had a similar image only Gemkit was snuggled close to her. Bushkit was sleeping off to the side quietly and oblivious.

"You can take him. I have to stay here.. with Gemkit," Softstep whispered keeping her glance from Bushkit. Coldstar just slightly nodded and nudged the tiny kit awake. His eyes shot open and he appeared dazed as he stared at his leaders.

"You look purple... Coldstar," Bushkit stated as he stood. She nodded and smiled at the young Tom. It would be sad to see such a character leave Caveclan.

"Bushkit, we had a special task for you. I need you to come with me," Coldstar explained with a comforting tone. He nodded and the two left the nursery and into the center of camp. His mother followed silently behind as his eyes widened at the sight of the camp at night. He skipped out onto the stone plateau and Coldstar intently followed the kit out, until he looked back at Softstep.

"Mommy, where am I going?" Bushkit whimpered pitifully as his mother sat coldly at the camp entrance. It was dark, and the little tabby kit was unused to so many trees. They seemed to reach for him, and so he shrank and ran back to Softstep, who looked down at him with a blank expression.

"You're going to Mountainclan, Bushkit, to meet with Redstar. Coldstar will take you there, so you'll be safe," she explained, with a slight pain in her heart. At first the plan of having Mountainclan foster Bushkit had seemed so logical. As she felt the little ball of warmth that was her child hide next to her, she just felt awful. *If only he didn't look like that monster...* Softstep thought with a grim expression.

Cinderstorm and Darktide looked back at the pair with pitying glances, as the dawn rose. Neither approved of what they were doing, but they knew that the kit would only bring a fight to Caveclan that they could not survive from. The two toms watched as Coldstar and Bushkit headed down the mountain. The toms exchanged heavy expressions before heading back to their dens.

"I will come along.. Coldstar," Softstep said quietly as she followed the two. Bushkit smiled but his mother didn't look at him.

Bushkit smelled the scents of unfamiliar cats, as they entered the woods and got a queasy feeling in his belly. He missed Gemkit so much. It was the first time that they had really been apart. He was afraid and anxious, but felt slightly excited at the thought of telling his sister about the forest.

After the longest time of walking, Bushkit shoved his face in flowers. The scent was soothing and he felt himself drift as Softstep picked him up by the scruff and carried him the rest of the way. Suddenly, more voices entered his surroundings and strange scents.

"The camp is just there, guys," a male voice said, more for Bushkit's benefit.

Now they were leaping over root and twig, and the wind whipped at Bushkit's face. He closed his eyes, and imagined that he was back in Caveclan, with the fierce mountain wind in his whiskers. The little kit always did this when he wanted to be brave.

Soon enough, they entered a near empty camp. The only cats in the clearing where a large dark red tabby tom, a black furred tom, and a tortoise-shell she cat. They all looked serious except for the she cat, who was smiling at Bushkit.

Coldstar approached big red Tom and Softstep greeted the she cat and set Bushkit down. Bushkit gasped as she put him down in front of the strange cats. The black furred tom nodded to Redstar and heading to a brush pile that appeared to be a den.

"This is Bushkit," Coldstar said in a somber tone. Her eyes were serious. "He's Vulturestar's kit, as you all know." The other cats nodded, and Bushkit's hair rose in alarm. *Who was Vulturestar? Why did the she cat look sad?*

The dark red tom looked at Bushkit. "Do you know who I am?"

Bushwind blinked in confusion. He shook his head. "N-no..,"

"My name is Redstar. I'm the leader of Mountainclan." He gestured

with his tail to the black tom. "That is my deputy, Spiderfang." And then he pointed to Dapplestone. "That's Dapplestone, your grandmother." He paused, as if weighing his words.

"Wha?" Bushkit looked at the she cat named Dapplestone. She gave him a friendly smile, and glanced at Redstar.

"We should just get this over with, Redstar," she said gently, "They can't stay here all night."

Coldstar flicked her tail nervously and looked at Redstar. Softstep just swallowed and gave Bushkit a pitiful glance. Softstep stepped away from Bushkit and looked at the ground, not wanting to meet anyone's gaze. Bushkit stepped shyly over to where his mother was standing and walked under her hanging head. He looked up at her, almost nose to nose with her.

"Mommy?" He squeaked. Softstep jerked her head away, and pushed Bushkit away, almost roughly. He fell over on his side and watched with misty eyes as his mother ran away into the forest.

He jumped up and began to run after her retreating figure. Redstar jumped in front of him and blocked his path. Bushkit blinked through shocked tears as his mother disappeared from him.

"Mommy!" He sobbed. Dapplestone took Redstar's place beside him and began to lick the top of his head. His grey fur almost immediately fluffed. Meanwhile, Redstar and Coldstar discussed other matters.

"He seems to be built like a warrior. I believe he'll do just fine here," Redstar commented awkwardly. Coldstar shook her head and sighed.

"He may be built like his father, but he has none of the agression," Coldstar explained, "And besides, some might take disagree with a son of Vulturestar learning how to be a warrior. Some cats might think that he'll be dangerous."

"Well, perhaps we'll have Horsetail train him to be a medicine cat? We already have Sparrowpaw but I'm sure we could use more

medicine cats," Redstar suggested. Coldstar nodded with a small smile.

"Yes. And.. if he should ever wish, he is always welcome in Caveclan. Any Mountainclan cat, is welcome," Coldstar said with a friendly smile before bidding farewell. She would never admit it, but she often wondered if staying in Mountainclan would've been better.

Dapplestone had already taken the young kit into the nursery, so all Redstar had to do was inform Horsetail.

"Horsetail, I've got some news," Redstar called out as he entered the Medicine cat den.

"About time!" An old, hoarse voice croaked from the a nearby den. Horsetail, looking tired and ragged, stepped out of his den and made his way towards the others.

"Once he's old enough.. he's going to be trained as a medicine cat.." Horsetail didn't stop at all and continued straight toward the nursery. He walked right up to Bushkit and stared at him intensely, nose to nose with the crying.

"Why are you crying?" Horsetail asked, his voice surprisingly soft. Bushkit, unaware of the surprised looks of the other cats, answered.

"M-My mommy left," He sniffled, not sure of what else to say. The old cat didn't move, but asked another question.

"What do you plan on doing about it?" He asked, sterner and more direct this time. Bushkit stopped his sniffling and hiccuped.

"I don't know...," he whispered. He felt the heat of Horsetail's gaze leave him, and watched the mysterious, old cat walk back to his den, ignoring the surprised stares of the other cats.

"Only kits cry. If you want to get to knowing, you need to get to learning," He said, and turned back to look at Bushkit. "As soon as you stop acting like a kit, maybe you'll get to train as a medicine cat."

The rest of the day was chaotic for Mountainclan. Spiderfang announced the news as soon as the kit had arrived. He somewhat purposely failed to make the connection that the kit was related to Vulturestar. He spent the rest of the day organizing patrols and taking part in a border patrol with Feathershade.

The weather started to turn cold and the trees were almost bare. Prey was becoming less abundant and so were hunting patrols. Spiderfang and Redstar encouraged all cats to eat only twice a day, and youngest and oldest always eat first.

"So, how's Icywind? The kits?" Feathershade asked as soon as they were away from camp. Spiderfang gape and looked at his sister with wide eyes.

"Seriously Spiderfang, I'm not dumb. I've grown up here and I can tell her scent on your fur every night you go out and come back," Feathershade snickered as the Tom looked at his paws. Did every cat know? "Don't worry, anyone else that knows won't care. Except maybe Horsetail. Caveclan is practically family anyway."

"But they're not. They separated from us, and what about the kits? What happens to them?" Spiderfang questioned letting out his exasperation. Ever since Icywind had told him, he had been thinking about it non-stop. Spiderfang and Feathershade never had a father around, so Spiderfang desperately wanted to be there for his kits.

"What do you mean? She's the mother, they stay in Caveclan," Feathershade replied with a challenging glance. He didn't respond, instead just paid attention to the border.

Dapplestone and Jaggedclaw were out the other day and found a dead coyote. It had alarmed the clan and Redstar, so naturally boarder patrols were more frequent. The kits weren't allowed to go out of camp anymore, and the apprentices weren't allowed to go alone. They all feared Vulturestar's return. It was almost two moons now since Spiderfang had seen the vicious Tom slaughter Patchedfur.

Each night the vivid memory haunted his dreams. His life had been

haunted since that night, when he didn't save the Tom. And now, Patchedfur's kits kept the memory even more alive. Spiderfang was more determined than any cat, to protect what was left of Patchedfur. He wouldn't stop until Vulturestar realized his crimes.

"How's Flamepaw getting along? Maybe only three more moons if her effort keeps up," Feathershade smiled with a hint of jealousy. Spiderfang nudged her and returned the smile with wide Crimson eyes.

"She would've never gotten this good if she didn't have Wolfpaw for competition. I'm so glad you found him. He's been a great addition to the clan. We need diverse characters from time to time."

"And he is one," Feathershade giggled as they started walking along a stream. Spiderfang nodded then he suddenly remembered something he forgot to do.

"Wait.. Spottedpelt, Smoketalon, and Redstar all went on today's hunting patrol. Raspyhowl and Jaggedclaw were watching the kits. Dapplestone and Swiftfawn were down by the lake. Horsetail and Sparrowpaw were sorting herbs... I think I forgot to assign the two to patrols today," Spiderfang said taking off toward camp. He slunk through vines and brush until back on the clear path toward camp. Feathershade swiftly followed her brother, praying to Lightclan that their apprentices weren't getting into trouble.

Meanwhile the two apprentices were doing just that. Flamepaw had convinced Wolfpaw to come with her to investigate the south western border where Darkclan cats were rumored to be. Though getting there, was harder than she thought.

"Flamepaw.. Redstar said we can't go out of camp without a Warrior. I don't want to get in trouble. Feathershade said I've been doing well," Wolfpaw whispered as they entered a darker part of the forest, where cedars and pines were thick together and let in only a few streams of light. Since it was almost leaf-bare, the area was chilling.

"Redstar thinks I'm still a kit, but I'm not. I'm ready to be a Warrior and defend Mountainclan from Vulturestar. I saw first hand how he

murdered an innocent Tom," she explained expressing passion through her words as she slowly crept toward the border. Wolfpaw, not convinced, followed anyway so she didn't have to go alone.

"No one has seen a Darkclan cat in moons, right? We can't possibly find one..."

"That's only because no one has been looking. Wolfpaw, I know your nervous. I'm nervous too, but this is a brave thing that cats could honor us for," Flamepaw replied with a smile before continuing through the woods. Wolfpaw sighed and of course followed her. He focused on what Feathershade and Spiderfang had taught him on softening his steps to add increased stealth. The soft ground wasn't littered with leaves, since pines and cedars didn't lose their leaves in leaf-bare. Instead there was more brush and thorns which never ceased to find themselves in his pelt.

As the scent of pine, moss, and rogue mixed, Wolfpaw knew they were reaching the Darkclan border. He had never encountered a Darkclan cat before, but his imagination went wild when he thought about them. Savage, huge, and claws dripping with blood were the only words he found to express his thoughts. Never had he been more afraid of cats, than this Clan of killers.

"Flamepaw.. are you sure? We could get hurt?" Wolfpaw finally broke, and stopped in his tracks. He wasn't strong enough to stand up against or even fight these cats. Flamepaw looked back at him before a cunning voice cut the air.

"Yes.. you could," a she cat's voice menaced as she came into view. Wolfpaw froze as a small black she cat slithered into view. Her yellow eye pierced through him yet, she was not what he imagined.

"Who are you? Darkclan?" Flamepaw challenged in almost a growl. The she cat tilted her head to the right and she grinned maliciously.

"Yes. Why are Mountainclan apprentices on Darkclan territory?" She asked with a smile while the two apprentices exchanged confused glances. The she cat was not at all what they expected.

"We wanted to know if the stories were true..."

"Well well... what do these rumors say?" The she cat cornered still smiling an awfully malicious one. Flamepaw looked as uncomfortable Wolfpaw, so he spoke up this time.

"That Vulturestar.. is a killer," Wolfpaw replied walking toward Flamepaw who looked to be regretting the decision. The she cat's smile turned blank then she looked on fire in seconds.

"Well they're not entirely true," she growled irritably before circling the apprentices. Although she was a little bigger than their size, her claws were massive and her insanity was evident.

"Here's the deal. I'll let you two, go alive, if you come with me. Vulturestar won't be around so it'll be our little secret..."

"Yes," Flamepaw replied fair too quickly.

"No. Flamepaw, we shouldn't even be here. We have to get back to camp."

"Silence. You can come alone if you wish dear," the she cat said quietly and Flamepaw nodded. Wolfpaw watched her follow the she cat but followed them without question.

"Wolfpaw, what're you.."

"I'm not letting you go alone. I have a bad feeling," Wolfpaw whispered but the black she cat cocked back her head.

"That's just his Kittypet in him.. Flamepaw. Doesn't want to be brave," she whispered before leading ahead once more. Flamepaw looked down and followed while Wolfpaw barred his fangs. This was all bad news.

When they broke through the forest, they came upon a meadow, filled with massive rocks. Wolfpaw now realized that Darkclan was just across the lake and not too far from Mountainclan territory. The she cat smelled the air then lead the two cats down a hole and into a lower valley that was almost like a cavern.

"This is Darkclan camp. I'm the deputy, Voidfur," she said as she looked around. The two apprentices looked around but we're not

terrified, and quite surprised. It was a pretty camp, but Wolfpaw still felt edgy.

"Afraid, yet?" Voidfur snickered as she sat in the middle of camp. The two apprentices exchanged confused glares then Flamepaw stared at her bluntly.

"No."

"Well, you should be... Lostpath, we have a few guests," Voidfur said, signaling a large Tom to exit from the den. Lostpath was the gray furred Tom. The most disturbing thing about him was his eyes, one was blue, the other was blood red.

"Flamepaw.." Wolfpaw started, but it was too late. The ginger she cat lunged toward Voidfur but the deputy was underestimated. She caught Flamepaw and took her to the ground in seconds while Lostpath bounded toward Wolfpaw. The Darkclan Tom was too quick and he skillfully swiped at Wolfpaw's hind legs, making him drop to the ground in pain. Lostpath snickered but just thrashed his paw against his head several times. Wolfpaw could do nothing as his vision blurred, and Flamepaw's screams of help vanished into memory.

Flamepaw kicked and screamed as Voidfur bit her foot, before handing her over to Lostpath. Flamepaw could not describe the horrors that were revealed to her, and couldn't help praying that it would end. And that Wolfpaw wasn't dead.

"Wolfpaw.. I'm so sorry," Flamepaw whimpered as she crawled toward Wolfpaw. Blood dribbled into her right eye and her legs were weak from viscous bites.

"What is going on!" A she cat's voice cut through the air and Flamepaw heard paw steps thunder into camp. She released of whimper and all fell silent. Even the malicious laughing stopped.

"Nightsky, These apprentices, threatened your kits," Voidfur said, surprised at the she cat's sudden arrival.

"Apprentices? Did you..." Another she cat murmured as she followed

Nightsky into camp.

"GET OUT OF MY CLAN, NOW! How dare you.. terrorize the young! We live by the Warrior code!" Nightsky yelled overcamp. Flamepaw trying to protect Wolfpaw, faintly saw four huddles of fur peer out from a den.

"The weak live by the Warrior code," Voidfur said with a harsh truth. Nightsky looked at her then the kits but didn't move.

"Did Vulturestar order this?" Nightsky asked with a trembling voice. Voidfur made no expression, and said the words that made Flamepaw scream inside.

"Yes." Nightsky looked from her kits to Voidfur and shook her head. She walked over to Flamepaw and helped the she cat to her feet, not looking back at Voidfur.

"If there is no Warrior code, I do not belong here. Sleetpool, look after the kits. They belong with their father, after all," Nightsky whispered as Flamepaw limped back toward Mountainclan territory. Nightsky breathed and picked Wolfpaw up by the scruff and prayed she'd have the strength to carry him to the border.

"You, can't leave," Sleetpool whispered in fear of Vulturestar and the other two cats who were left in camp with her. Nightsky didn't look back.

The journey to the Mountainclan and Darkclan border was excruciating for Nightsky and she was prepared to collapse from grief and exhaust. Flamepaw was not in good shape, but luckily Wolfpaw appeared to wake groggily. When they were half way through, it was dark in the night.

"Flamepaw! Wolfpaw!" Feathershade called out with an exasperated voice. Soon the Warrior was next with them but she wasn't relieved.

"What did you do! You viscous traitor!" Feathershade screamed toward Nightsky when Flamepaw halted her in her broken state.

"She saved us... It was Voidfur... she tricked us and.. Wolfpaw," Flamepaw said and soon burst into tears as Spiderfang finally

arrived.

"It's true. And I left my clan and my kits. If I was in camp, I would've never let this happen. I'm so sorry," Nightsky said, as she started to walk away.

"Stay please. Just the night," Flamepaw pleaded looking at the mentors who nodded. Feathershade looked terribly worried about Wolfpaw as they dashed back to camp. It seemed that the whole clan had been looking for them.

"Flamepaw, you're okay!" Sparrowpaw cried out in relief. Her sister nuzzled her then stepped back at the sight of her wounds and ran off to fetch herbs. Horsetail, on the other hand, wanted explanations, along with Redstar and the others.

"We.. I mean..I wanted to see if Darkclan was really still there. And they were... The deputy Voidfur.. she lied and beat us.. I never wanted any of this to happen," Flamepaw sobbed dramatically as Spiderfang looked down with disappointment. Redstar, was furious and for once let his composure go.

"I had a simple order, and you two could not follow it!" Redstar fumed making quite the scene as Flamepaw continued to sob. Even Smoketalon looked on with disappointment. Both Redstar and Smoketalon was too much for Flamepaw and she continued compose herself.

"I'm sorry," she whimpered as the leader paced back and forth. He showed no sign of empathy or forgiveness at that time and quickly sent her to her den with a flick of his tail. The clan was frozen at their leader's anger.

Wolfpaw was immediately taken to the medicine cat den, and Horsetail was sure he would be fine. Redstar sent everyone else to sleep except for Smoketalon, who was taking guard, the mentors and Nightsky.

"I want you gone by tomorrow morning, Nightsky. Caveclan may offer you a new home, but Mountainclan. That's my decision on that," Redstar said, before dismissing her and she uttered no word

of defiance. Then the leader turned to the mentors.

"As for you two and your apprentices, I'm disappointed. I've know Flamepaw since she was a kit and she's never disobeyed me. I don't know whether it's the Clan, or Wolfpaw but either way, I won't allow it. Wolfpaw and Flamepaw will be trained separately and will not be allowed out of camp unless with two Warriors. They have to heal those wounds now anyway," Redstar huffed as the two looked down. "Because his mate is gone and his clan was attacked, Vulturestar will no doubt make trouble for Mountainclan. Spiderfang, no cat is allowed to go out alone, from now on," Redstar said before also dismissing his deputy. Sister and brother, both departed to the Warrior's den, silently.

Redstar could only dreadfully imagine the evils that Mountainclan would soon be exposed to.

Sorry for the disturbing content that was in this chapter. And sorry if anyone hated this chapter. No cat died, thankfully.

If you have anything to say, private message me or tell me in the comments. I love to here our thoughts and feedback. Thank you.

Chapter 28

[image]

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor: Feathershade

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Thornkit(she cat), Tallkit (Tom), Silverkit (she cat), Palekit (she cat), Tinykit (she cat)

Kit:
Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. 2 moons old.

Bushkit- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. 2 moons old.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Warriors:

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs and gray eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes

Queens:

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes. Kits: Twistedkit (Tom), Flintkit (Tom), Blitzkit (she cat), and Fairkit (Tom)

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. Kits: Gemkit (she

cat)

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Kits:
Shadowkit- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Rainkit- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail.

Herbkit- small gray tabby she cat with light blue eyes.

Bubblekit- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

"What do you mean.. my mate is gone?" Vulturestar questioned coldly, as Voidfur tried to explain what happened. Hiding her satisfaction was difficult, due to her leader's shear anger and bias.

"Two... Mountainclan or Caveclan apprentices, attacked your kits. I tried to discipline and rid these apprentices and Nightsky insisted they did no wrong, and left," Voidfur replied, testing what Graystar had taught her. If she couldn't reason with him, she had to manipulate him.

"I want her back here. I want patrols sent.. the kits need a mother..."

"Vulturestar, if I may add, she is already gone and the kits are a moon now. They can survive on prey alone," Voidfur insisted yet Vulturestar paced violently. His eyes darted across his den and his breaths became sharp.

"I need... her... Nevermind, I will reason with her. We will find where she went and send a patrol. If it's another clan.. we'll make sure every clan knows what we have trained for," Vulturestar decided with a new fire in his eyes. She shook her head in agreement and followed him outside.

The clan was watching through the crevices of the den while he made his way to the middle of the camp. Voidfur sat near the edge, and Lostpath slowly made his way to her. Vulturestar scanned the camp with narrowed eyes, skimming over the kits whom were so eager to see him.

"Darkclan! I have some terrible news. Earlier today, two Caveclan apprentices attacked the camp. Luckily, Voidfur and Lostpath were here to defend it. But it seems that Nightsky's loyalty was manipulated and she has left Darkclan, and headed to Caveclan with the apprentices. At dawn, I will send a patrol to speak with Caveclan and try to reason with Nightsky. If their leader does not meet my terms, that patrol will leave and regroup to attack that night. No clan, will challenge Darkclan without ramifications!" Vulturestar echoed with a violent tone. His bright yellow eyes were ablaze with passion and the majority of cheers signaled he was not the only one.

Though, Sleetpool did not cheer and instead exchanged a grim glance with Nightjet who bore the same expression. Sleetpool then turned her face to see the deputy's sharp eyes amongst her. Voidfur had never looked so threatening until that moment. Sleetpool knew exactly what it meant and quickly turned her cheek.

Voidfur and Sleetpool knew the reality of the lies she told Vulturestar. The deputy was warning her to keep her mouth shut, and all Sleetpool could do was that. After Sleetpool had left Voidfur's glare, the deputy turned to Vulturestar to discuss the patrols.

"Keeping Nightjet and Sleetpool here to watch the kits would be wise. Both are skilled hunters, but neither would be willing to kill a cat," Voidfur explained honestly. Vulturestar nodded silently, in agreement.

"Yes that is wise. And do not ostracize them for their character. As long as they stay loyal to Darkclan in one way or another, they need not to kill cats for us," Vulturestar replied with a hint of amusement. Voidfur grinned and looked back toward the other Warriors, excited for battle. "Sending a small patrol at first will make it seem like diplomacy. Then the fighters will go at night...."

"What are your conditions?" Voidfur questioned with curiosity. It seemed as if the Darkclan leader had everything sorted out.

"Nightsky told me when she got here that Caveclan is small, and Coldstar is the leader. My other children are there, and I want them back. They belong with their pureblooded father, not their Kittypet mother... As for the rest of the clan.. We'll see when we get there," Vulturestar grinned before resuming his speaking space in the middle of camp. He stood tall and puffed out his chest, making the Tom look past his moons.

"The first patrol shall consist of Voidfur, Maliceflame, and Ghostpelt. The second patrol with be Oakstripe, Lostpath, Earthfoot and I. The first patrol will be speaking about my terms with Caveclan, then quietly leave and come back here. The second patrol will attack in the night. Nightjet and Sleetpool will both stay here and watch the kits and camp," Vulturestar informed everyone

throughly. With the flick of his tail, he dismissed everyone to their nest, leaving Voidfur and himself in the center of camp.

"Tomorrow.. tell Coldstar.. I want my mate and children back.. and that if they don't side with Darkclan, they'll be sorry," he said quietly, before leaving to his den. Voidfur nodded then left to her den, the deputy's den. When she entered, she was caught off guard as silently pinned to the ground.

"You promised me Voidfur," Lostpath whispered quietly, as the she cat kicked him off with her hind legs. She rolled her eyes and looked back at the Tom.

"I didn't promise you anything," she snorted as she took her place in her best. The gray Tom frowned and his mis-colored eyes stared at her with confusion.

"You said when you're leader, you'd make me..."

"*Deputy*?...When I'm leader, I won't need a deputy. I can trick Lightclan into giving me all those lives.. I'll never need one... *You*, are a tool who still hasn't fully proven himself. Tomorrow, you will. Make sure you kill Nightsky. And when you do.. let Vulturestar see her dead mangled body, then blame it on Softstep," Voidfur snickered with excitement. Lostpath nodded with a slight grin but Voidfur quickly dismissed him with a flick of her tail.

"Yes, *Voidstar*..."

Voidfur awoke to the Dark forest in only seconds. There Graystar sat grooming his pelt meticulously as she entered the clearing. His piercing blue eyes caught her and he quickly sat up with a scowl on his face.

"Flirting? Are we?" Graystar challenged, referring to her and Lostpath's friendship. Voidfur sneered and looked at the old leader with amusement.

"Never. I am never going to consume my time with... a Tom, or Darkclan forbid... Kits....," she insisted as Graystar rose to his paws and narrowed his eyes.

"I heard your plan.. it is quite something. But how can you guarantee the she cat's death? What if that Tom doesn't kill her? There is lose fur in your plan...."

"Lostpath will gladly kill her since I told him. It's just the matter of him doing it now... All that needs to happen is that he thinks Nightsky is dead. But I would prefer to see her dead body.. all the same," Voidfur replied coldly while Graystar nodded approvingly.

"You are learning very quickly. But you cannot do this alone. You'll need to train others here, I shall too," Graystar explained as he looked for her response. Voidfur narrowed her eyes in confusion. *I thought this was my thing*? "A kit is coming.. so try not to scare her.."

As soon as Graystar said that, a flash of light appeared and so did a kit. She was a medium sized kit. She was a gray tabby with bright blue eyes, she looked similar to Graystar.

"What is this place? Who.. are you?" She questioned quietly and she scanned the area. The kit smelled of Mountainclan and Voidfur finally caught on.

"This is.. Lightclan's training meadow. Graystar, a Lightclan cat, recruits cats of the clan to train," Voidfur said, forcing a smile. Graystar walked forward and smiled at the kit, who was still suspicious.

"Are you serious? I've always wanted to train early.. but I didn't know Lightclan would care," she said quietly as Graystar walked toward her. He as now hovering over her with a large grin.

"Yes.. Thornkit. Come here every night from now on, and we'll train you earlier than usual," Graystar replied with a smile. Thornkit finally sat of straight and nodded in agreement, before disappearing.

"She's my kin. Dapplestone, the kit's mother, was my brother's daughter. And my son was her mate. Her Skyclan blood and ambition will is more powerful than many, and will take her far... As for you Voidfur, you will lead Darkclan sooner or later... but not before we carry out our plans," Graystar said. The leader started to

chuckle and disappeared in laughter, leaving Voidfur questioning his sanity.

Thornkit woke by her mother with a jump. She panted heavily until she realized she could wake the others. When she looked around, she noticed Riverkit cuddled in her small nest off to the side, Palekit and Silverkit were in Riverkit's and Dapplestone's nest. Tinykit was snuggled close to Dapplestone as usual, but two other kits were stirring on the other side of the den.

"Bushkit...Bushkit wake up!" Tallkit nudged Bushkit's head with his paw. "Hey buddy! Wake up!"

Bushkit opened his eyes lazily and came face-to-face with Dapplestone's son and his adopted brother. The young tomkit was grinning like a morning-cat. Bushkit wasn't smiling, and hated getting up early. So instead of returning the smile, and turned over on his side.

"Grooooaannnnn...," Bushkit mewled. Two days before, he had come to MountainClan under circumstances he didn't entirely understand, and since then Tallkit had been, well, following him. He assumed that Tallkit had been sick of having only girls to play with, and was trying to make friends. And he didn't blame the Tom kit, the five she kits were nuts.

But Bushkit wasn't in the mood. He missed his mom, and despite the fact that they were the same age, Bushkit was slightly weirded out by the fact that Tallkit and him were related.

Tallkit huffed at Bushkit's stubbornness and looked outside the entrance to the den. The sun was barely up, and the sunrise was a beautiful pink. To Tallkit, this was the perfect time to get up and face the day!
He looked back at Bushkit, who was pretending to be asleep. For some reason, he preferred to sleep away from everyone else. But despite this, Tallkit was determined to make friends with this guy.

"Oh come on, Bushkit!" Tallkit whispered so as not to wake his mother and siblings, who were huddled together in a giant furry ball.

"Don't you wanna be up earlier than the Warriors?"

Bushkit rolled over to face Tallkit and sat up. His eyes were droopy and tired-looking, and his fur was puffed up from either static or annoyance. It was hard to tell, his fur was always puffy.
Bushkit sighed.

"We aren't supposed to be out without moth-Dapplestone," Bushkit reminded Tallkit, "And who cares about being up earlier than everyone else."

Tallkit grinned mischieviously, "I care, because it's not allowed. So are you coming with me, or are you gonna sit inside with the she cats?" Bushkit looked back at the girls, and then back at Tallkit, and finally at the sky ouutside.

"The sky is red...," He muttered.
"Wha?"
"Nothing! Let's go!"

The two kits skittered out of the den, trying to outrun each other. Tallkit was longer and leaner than Bushkit, who was broader and fluffier, so Dapplestone's son outran Bushkit easily. They ran to the big rock, and after several failed tries, jumped on top of it. They looked at the sunrise, which was a red color.

Bushkit's stomach twisted into knots at the sight of it. "The sky isn't supposed to be red."

Tallkit turned to him and cocked his head to the side. "Why? It's really cool! I've never seen anything like it!"

Bushkit shook his head, and pointed to the evergreen forest in the distance. "A red sunrise means that there's bad stuff coming. Really bad fox-dung stuff..."

Tallkit's fur along his back prickled. He hoped it didn't have anything to do with DarkClan, and said so. "Do you think that it has something to do with DarkClan?"

Bushkit shook his head. "Nope. A war-tinged sky is always orange. Red means bad." He noticed Tallkit's frightened expression, and

tried to comfort him. "But that's just a rumor! Ha ha!" He turns and catches sight of something.

"Holy crow-dung! Purple root!" He jumped off the rock and darted over to a patch of flowered weeds. Tallkit shrugged and followed, taking a deep breath before jumping off the big rock, and looked back at it as he followed Bushkit.

"Bushkit, where'd you learn all those big-cat words? Dapplestone never lets me use them," Tallkit asked curiously. Bushkit smiled and looked back at him.

"Back at Caveclan, Cinderstorm said some every time he slipped on the rocks! And here, Horsetail is always mumbling them... there so funny," Bushkit said with a laugh as he was pulling the flowered weeds out by their roots and laying them in a pile on the ground. Tallkit watched his new friend curiously, and eventually had to ask.

"What are you doing?" He asked, and Bushkit giggled with excitement.

"I'm pulling the leaves off of this purple-root, and then...," He looked around to see if anyone was around. When the coast seemed clear, he leaned over to Tallkit and whispered, "and then I'm going to eat them!"

Tallkit jerked his head back in amazement. "What?! Who ever heard of eating a root! Or plants.."

Bushkit grinned and pulled the last flowered weed out of the ground, making sure to leave a small patch left. Then-to Tallkit's suprise- Bushkit bites off the head of the weed, right on it's dark leaves. Even more suprising, Bushkit swallows it.

"Uh...I don't know if you can digest that..," Tallkit muttered. Bushkit squinted at Tallkit, an odd look on his face.

"You're not supposed to.. you have to eat it!" Bushwind sassed, "You're supposed the enjoy it..."

Bushkit rolled flat on his back and stuck his stubby legs in the air, and laughed hard. He kicked them around and Tallkit was really

worried for a few minutes.

"Haha! Look, Tall-guy! I'm airwalking." He laughed and kicked his legs back and forth, supposedly simulating the act of walking. Bushkit turned to Tallkit, suddenly serious. He drew his legs up against his tummy. "Do I look ridiculous?"

Tallkit just stared at him. "You look insane." Bushkit giggled at this, and tried to stand. Instead, he rolled over and over on his side, toward Spiderfang's den.

"Son-of-a mate!" He squealed, trying to stop himself. Tallkit ran after his friend, and tried to stop him from waking the MountainClan deputy. But the sight was so ridiculous, he couldn't help laughing. He stopped Bushkit just before he rolled right in side, and both had to run to the whole other side of camp so that nobody would hear their laughter.

"You're crazy," Tallkit giggled, "I like you!"

"Boys!" Dapplestone called from the entrance to their den. "What are you doing? It's time to eat!"

"Come on, Tall-guy!" Bushkit stood and skipped as he walked with Tallkit to get some food. "Alright Bush-guy."

Don't you just love kits? Thanks CeRosette for the kit part!

Since it's Valentine's Day, I do insist that you send me your "ships", or the crushes your cat has.

Example) IcywindXSpiderfang are so adorable! OMGOSH I love them.

Comment about any cat or your own but let's think outside of the box here.
Thanks for reading!

Chapter 29

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor:

Feathershade

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Thornkit(she cat), Tallkit (Tom), Silverkit (she cat), Palekit (she cat), Tinykit (she cat)

Kits:
Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. 2 moons old.

Bushkit- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. 2 moons old.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Warriors:

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white short furred she cat with blue eyes.

Leapinghare- a lean cream tom with long legs and gray eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Nightsky- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes

Queens:

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw and amber eyes. Kits: Twistedkit (Tom), Flintkit (Tom), Blitzkit (she cat), and Fairkit (Tom)

Softstep- a small cream she cat with brown eyes. Kits: Gemkit (she cat)

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Kits:
Shadowkit- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Rainkit- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail.

Herbkit- small gray tabby she cat with light blue eyes.

Bubblekit- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

"Mommy, when will be old enough to be apprentices?" Flinkit asked

with shear excitement as he bounded into the middle of camp. Fairkit and Blitzkit followed him both as eager, while Twistedpaw trotted behind coldly. Shymask laughed and turned back to the four kits, who were growing up quickly.

"It's usually 6 moons, but I bet you could ask Coldstar," she replied with a tinge of sadness. She didn't really want them to grow up, but at the same time, she wanted to return to Warrior duties.

"She's still sleeping. Can I ask Cinderstorm? He's always really cool!" Flintkit said, before bolting off toward the deputy's den. Fairkit bounded after him but Blitzkit shook her head.

"Icywind is obviously the nicest. But Frostycloud always plays Battle with me. Either way.... who do you like Twistedkit?" Blitzkit asked as she turned around to face her brother. He limped toward where Shymask had laid down and he did the same. Every since he was born, he's had a twisted foot that defaulted his athletics.

"I don't care. I'd be lucky to get a mentor. They'll probably kick me out," Twistedkit scowled and placed his head on his paws. His sister frowned then pounced onto him playfully, until he knocked her off.

"Perhaps.. another field? Maybe you could be a Medicine cat?" Shymask asked with curiosity. Twistedkit narrowed his eyes and shook his head profusely.

"Sort and eat herbs! That's Bushkit's job... where did that loser go anyway?"

"Bushkit was not a loser," Blitzkit defended boldly as she searched for better words. "He's special."

"Because Bushkit wanted to be a Medicine cat, he had to go to Mountainclan to train there. Caveclan doesn't have a medicine cat yet," Shymask informed them until Twistedkit scoffed heavily.

"Caveclan won't need one when were destroyed by Darkclan," Twistedkit corrected making Blitzkit's eyes go wide. Shymask stood and sent him a powerful glare.

"Why do you keep saying things like that? I thought I taught you

better," Shymask said with a tint of worry. Twistedkit started to limp away but turned his head back briefly.

"I just listen to the Warriors in my free time." By that time, Twistedkit was gone and she was left with a confused Blitzkit. She quickly encouraged the kit to go and find her brothers and she did. In the meantime, Shymask enjoyed a delicious mouse before walking over to where Leapinghare was now keeping guard.

"Do you need any prey, Leapinghare?" She asked quietly, and she silent Tom shook his head before turning back.

"No. I'm fine thank you.. I.. I just miss Spiderfang and Swiftfawn. Without them.. I wouldn't be here," he said quietly looking out at the red horizon. Neither cat dwelled on the unique sky, for their attention was quickly yanked away.

"Coldstar! I'm smelling scents! Of Darkclan!" Frostycloud shouted as she ran back into the cavern. She went out to hunt, but it seemed that she had dropped her prey in an effort to get back.

"I'll get the kits," Shymask said as she hurdled off to find the four. Softstep and Gemkit were still in the nursery, and it seemed Twistedkit had made his way back there too.

Cinderstorm quickly heard the news and nudged the kits out of his den. By the time the kits and queens were all the in nursery, Frostycloud and Coldstar were out on the stone plateau. Practically all of the Warriors followed and were addressing the three Darkclan cats that climbed onto the plateau.

Coldstar examined the cats intently. Only one of them she recognized, which was the jet black she cat, Voidfur. She lead the patrol of herself and two other white cats. One was a long furred she cat, and the other was a scrawny shirt white furred Tom. They met Coldstar calmly and only Voidfur's lingering smirk seemed to draw any hostility.

"*Coldlies*, how are you?" Voidfur asked menacingly. The other cats shifted at Voidfur's words of ignorance but Coldstar handled it gently.

"It's Coldstar. Why have you come to Caveclan?" Coldstar confronted quickly making Voidfur grin. While they exchanged their words, Maliceflame stare blank at a white she cat past Coldstar, sitting besides a gray Tom.

"Ida? Is it really you?" Maliceflame whispered causing Ghostpelt's eyes to widen in alarm. Icywind looked at the two cats gaping at her and did the same herself. Voidfur ignored Maliceflame's words and started to explain their motives to Coldstar.

"Vulturestar sent us to speak with you. He asks politely to return his kits, the Tom and the she cat. They belong in their father's clan," Voidfur said confidently. Everyone stiffened while one cat shot forward in anger.

"They belong with their mother," Leapinghare snapped. Coldstar quickly sent him a discerning look and he stepped back.

"I'm afraid I'll have to decline Vulturestar's request, and bear some terrible news. The Tom kit recently passed away, I'm afraid. Since we didn't have a medicine cat, we couldn't save him," Coldstar explained. Caveclan knew it was a lie but tried to act convincingly.

"He also, wanted to ask Nightsky to come back. We received word she was given care here, by we want her to know that her place is Darkclan," Voidfur requested even though Caveclan knew not of what she discussed.

"If she were to arrive at our camp, we would deliver her the message. But we have had no such thing," Coldstar replied with a smile. Voidfur turned cold and stared at Cinderstorm.

"If you're hiding her, Vulturestar wouldn't appreciate you stealing *his* mate," Voidfur sneered making Cinderstorm shoot forward. His blue eyes were ablaze and his actions were of impulse.

"If she was here, I wouldn't be stealing her. Anything Nightsky has done, has been because of that monster, *Vulturestar*!" Cinderstorm yelled in fury while Voidfur shrugged and turned away.

"Thank you, Coldstar. We have to go though. Oh.. but before we

do... If Caveclan sides with Mountainclan over Darkclan.. well, you've been warned," Voidfur snickered and was about to depart when Coldstar confronted her whisker to whisker. The intensity was overwhelming.

"If I had the choice.. several times... I would always side with Mountainclan," Coldstar said with a cold tone. Voidfur replied with a cold glare before running off. Coldstar ran back into camp followed by most of her warrior.

Maliceflame stopped Icywind in shock, and watched the she cat react. Icywind knew the she cat, but wasn't prepared to ever speak to her again. Ghostpelt had already ran after Voidfur, leaving Maliceflame to confront Icywind.

"It's Icy.. Icywind," Icywind correcte, avoiding the she cat's eyes. Maliceflame breathed slowly and inched forward but Icywind only took steps back.

"You.. you're so grown up. And you're with your own kits," Maliceflame said with admiration. She never thought she'd see her daughter again.

"Which you'll never see," Icywind said as she prepared to turn away. Maliceflame sighed at her words than froze in remembrance of Caveclan's fate.

"Before you go. Please, take yourself and the clan's kits and go to Mountainclan. That's all I ask of you," Maliceflame begged. Icywind, speechless, watched her mother as she trotted after the rest of her patrol. She found herself sitting near the exit and thinking of her words.

The clan was on edge the rest of the day. Coldstar insisted that the Warriors try to stay in camp today. The only patrol sent out was to make sure Darkclan had left. But the patrol found something much different.

"We can't send her back!" Cinderstorm argued to Coldstar. Darktide and him had found Nightsky seeking for protection, just as Voidfur said. But Coldstar was not in the mood to help anyone.

"You want me to take in a Caveclan traitor?" Coldstar questioned. Darktide nudged her and Cinderstorm glared at her too.

"We'll talk about it later. I'm too exhausted," Coldstar decided, taking a leave into her den. Cinderstorm looked hopefully at Nightsky, whom he still had affections for. But the she cat simply turned away for a den.

Meanwhile Icywind thought over her mother's words once again. They had seemed a desperate plea, that Icywind did not understand. It was almost evening as she settled down for a mouse, and Blitzkit neared her. The kit laid her head against Icywind's paws. Icywind grinned.

"What'd Darkclan say?" Are they going to hurt us?" Blitzkit asked with wide eyes. The cream Bengal she cat was really precious, yet so serious. It made Icywind realize the danger they were in. The white she cat instantly darted to the entrance of Caveclan, and inspected the surrounding trees belong the plateau. A thing outline of a cat sat positioned there, and it was off Darkclan scent. Soon more silhouettes of cats appeared and the Darkclan scent became stronger.

"Blitzkit, do you trust me?" Icywind asked quietly as the kit searched her face. Blitzkit nodded quietly and Icywind looked up, and to Frostycloud, the nearest Warrior. Before taking off with Blitzkit, Icywind shouted, "DARKCLAN IS ATTACKING!"

Panic everywhere is what followed. Icywind picked up Blitzkit by the scruff and made a run for Mountainclan why she could. If she could get there fast enough, she could get reinforcements. Even if it was too late, Blitzkit and her unborn kits needed a chance.

While Icywind raced through the forest, Vulturestar barreled toward Caveclan with his Darkclan Warriors. Coldstar and Vulturestar were the first to collide on the battle field, and the two struggled for the upper-hand. Darktide, although smaller, took on Oakstripe and bit the Tom ferociously. Frostycloud and Cinderstorm both attacked Earthfoot, who was not prepared for the assault.

While the Warriors each fought for blood, Voidfur slinked past the

battle and through the tunnel in which she smelt mother's milk. It didn't take long before she was faced with Shymask. Voidfur narrowed her eyes and smirked before pouncing onto the Queen. The past leader was slower than Voidfur and underestimated her.

"Mommy! No!" Flintkit screamed as Voidfur's teeth bit deeply into his mother's neck. Shymask screamed and threw the she cat off and against the cave wall. As the two she cat's tried to regain strength, Softstep herded the kits past Voidfur and out of the nursery, attempting escape. Voidfur let them go, knowing Lostpath and the others would stop the escape, and she turned back to Shymask.

"How many lives do you have left, *Shymask*?" Voidfur taunted and she circled Shymask. The Queen's wound was ghastly but she managed to get to her feet weakly.

"None of your business.."

"Whatever it is, it's one less," Voidfur growled pushing her into the cave wall. She decided that letting the wound do the rest of the work, would buy them enough time. Shymask lay powerless and weak as Voidfur bent over to deliver her last words.

"Your kits and I... are going to have so much fun," Voidfur laughed before leaving coldly. Shymask lost her eighth life in tears.

Nightsky had managed to hide in one of the dens, until she heard a shriek from across camp. Lostpath had cornered a Bengal gray she kit. Nightsky shot forward with the only care that the kit would be safe. She pounced into Lostpath, but the attempt was weak against the gigantic Tom.

When he noticed Nightsky, his actions became more forceful. He quickly pinned her against the wall and with one slash, made a deep gash across her neck. Nightsky let out a single yelp, as she dropped feebly to the ground. The blood pool around her was increasing and as Lostpath darted away, a scream of anger came from across the camp.

"NO! No, this can't be! Who killed my mate!" Vulturestar's shriek echoed over Caveclan and it stopped everything. Gemkit, the Bengal

gray she cat who saw everything wanted to answer. But sadly, another cat beat her to it.

"It was Softstep! I saw it myself!" Voidfur declared. This made the Caveclan Warriors scream out in objection.

"She would never!" Leapinghare shouted before being pushed away by Oakstripe.

"She's the kindest cat I knew!"

"She's a killer... where is she?" Vulturestar asked, before quickly finding the cream she cat. Softstep's expression was cool and her heart was heavy.

"You'll never take the kits. Not even with me dead," she swore before the evil Tom raked his claws across her stomach. The she cat instantly flailed and dropped to the ground in a pool of blood.

"Mommy... I'm sorry.. mommy," Gemkit whimpered as she took small steps toward her mother. Before she got to her mother Voidfur picked Gemkit up, just as Vulturestar requested.

"Take the rest of the kits," He ordered before signaling the rest of the Warriors to leave. Cinderstorm was the only Caveclan Warrior still on their feet, but he couldn't stop the Darkclan Warriors.

"You can't do this. You'll be sorry," Cinderstorm vowed but Vulturestar simply ignored him. The gray Tom watched as Darkclan retreated, leaving Caveclan in ruins. The deputy inspected the remains of camp gently.

Frostycloud lay alive against the cavern wall, but her white fur was now stained with blood. Darktide and Leapinghare were both severely injured and bleeding out on the cave floor. Softstep and Nightsky both appeared to be dead. Shymask and Coldstar were just waking after the loss of one of their lives.

"Nightsky..." Cinderstorm whispered in hopes she was still alive. He pressed his paw against her chest and there was no movement. Her fur was now ice cold. But as he turned away, a loud gasp came from behind him and he spun around. Nightsky, presumed dead, was

now alive.

"Nightsky... how?" Cinderstorm stuttered as the she cat got to her feet. Her wound was now only a scar and her eyes were wide.

"It's..it's Skystar.. now.."

R.I.P. SOFTSTEP
As a Kittypet was known as Happy. Sadly she lost that happiness losing her brother by the same claw of the Tom whose kits she bore. She was a wonderful mother while it lasted and her happiness and memory shall go on in the lives of her kits.

R.I.P. LEAPINGHARE
Born in a barn, Jumper barely considered himself a Kittypet. But after meeting a local she cat, Sarah, his whole world changed forever. Dying in battle like a true Warrior, his last thoughts were of his undying love of Swiftfawn.

Chapter 30

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor:

Feathershade

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Thornkit(she cat), Tallkit (Tom), Silverkit (she cat), Palekit (she cat), Tinykit (she cat)

Kits:
Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. 2 moons old.

Bushkit- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. 2 moons old.

Caveclan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Warriors:

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Queens:

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Kits: Blitzkit (she cat)

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Kits:
Shadowkit- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Rainkit- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail.

Herbkit- small gray tabby she cat with light blue eyes.

Bubblekit- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Gemkit- gray Bengal she cat with emerald green eyes.

Flinkit- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes.

Fairkit- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Twistedkit- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

"They're coming back!" Frostycloud cried out before limping back to Darktide and Leapinghare. She feared Darkclan her clan mates death more than anything at the moment. If they did not get Mountainclan's help, there would be no more Caveclan. There already was no more Caveclan.

"What do you mean? Who are they?" Skystar asked in a panicked state. Cinderstorm studied her searching for answers but the she at didn't seem to remember anything.

"Darkclan.. you were Warrior of that clan," Cinderstorm mentioned calmly but she shook her head. Her eyes were wide and dazed and her breathing sky-rocketed in speed.

"I've never met a Darkclan... I've never met you... nor any of you. Listen, I'm sorry about your friends but I have to get out of here... I don't belong here," Skystar said before barreling out of the cave and through the forest to the left. Cinderstorm sighed while Frostycloud looked at him with alarmed eyes.

"How many?" Coldstar asked as she limped next to Cinderstorm. He looked back at the leader, relieved she was okay but worried for her state.

"Maybe five. We can't hold off five," Frostycloud whispered examining the cats rushing onto the plateau.

"What does it matter! I've lost all of them! And they'll all be beaten and killed. Or worse, they'll kill," Shymask cried out as she came into the center of the cave. Frostycloud tried to comfort her but the cats were finally coming into view.

"Spiderfang! Oh thank Lightclan!" Cinderstorm shouted meeting the other deputy at the entrance. Other Mountainclan cats rushed past, including Sparrowpaw, Spottedpelt, Swiftfawn and Redstar. The Spottedpelt immediately met Shymask and started to explain.

"Blitzkit and Icywind are fine. As soon as she saw the cats coming,

she took Blitzkit with her and came to us for help. I only wish we could've helped, more," Spottedpelt said getting a tear of joy from Shymask. She embraced the Tom with her tail and smiled, still shedding tears.

"Thank you so much," Shymask said before looking back at the two cats who were so close to death. Sparrowpaw was already examining Darktide, and she already applied a layer of cobwebs.

Swiftfawn pressed her paw to Leapinghare's chest but quickly redrew it. The Tom was dead, and there was nothing she could do. She started to shed tears as she silently picked the Tom up by the scruff and drug him off to bury him. Everyone was silent as Shymask did the same with Softstep, who died earlier of a deep wound.

Redstar, Coldstar and Cinderstorm all picked up Darktide, carefully and prepared for the long journey to Mountainclan. Without any word, Coldstar had decided to take refuge in Mountainclan. It was evident that if she could not protect her clan, she would have to take a break from leading for a while.

The cats left of Caveclan and the patrol of Mountainclan swiftly and quietly made their way through the forest. Caveclan's camp had been destroyed to it they deserted it with no remorse. The cave was only a memory of the horrors that Darkclan brought upon it.

"Coldstar, we will do all in our power to get your clan back. I assure you. But it may take awhile. Spiderfang has told me that Icywind is expecting his kits," Redstar mentioned and Coldstar nodded, a bit surprised. She knew not of them being mates but expected something of such all the same.

"That is alright. Of course. Until Blitzkit is apprenticed and the rest saved, we don't want to think about going back," Coldstar replied, confident in Redstar's leading skills. She had to be if there was any hope of saving Darktide. Swiftfawn and Shymask remained silent the way over, as if their memories were blank with thought.

When they arrived at camp it was filled with chaos. Horsetail and Sparrowpaw sampered everywhere to heal the cats wounded while

the kits observed, overwhelmed at the new cats. Blitzkit searched frantically for her family, but only saw her mother stumble in, in silence.

"Mommy! I missed you!" Blitzkit shouted as she ran into her mother. Shymask gave her several licks of affection then brightened having her by her side. "Mommy, where's my brothers? Are they alright?"

"Blitzkit," Shymask began with a somber glance. She tried to think of a kit protected explanation, but the truth was only suffice. "Your brothers.. were taken by.. Darkclan. They're fine, but we'll have to rescue them."

"Will we get them back soon?" Blitzkit asked more quietly. Shymask sighed then shrugged while Blitzkit looked up with wide eyes.

"I don't know. In the meantime, meet the Mountainclan kits and the other clan members. For now, this is out clan," Shymask explained with a smile. Blitzkit nodded and also put on a small smile, but her concern for her brothers was evident. "Let's start right now."

Shymask led Blitzkit to Mountainclan's nursery where Icywind was speaking to Spiderfang outside. Shymask gave a curt nod to Icywind before entering the nursery. Blitzkit walked into the nursery carefully to be bombarded with six excited faces.

"Dapplestone, this is Blitzkit," Shymask began before another kit hurdled into her. The black and white tom kit narrowed his eyes and growled.

"Tallkit, that's not nice!" A gray she cat with white patches fur shouted. The Tom turned back about to argue when his mother grabbed him by the scruff.

"But mom! There are way too many she cats!" Tallkit pouted while his mother began to lick and scold him. She looked around more and noticed four she cats, Tallkit, and a bigger gray tabby Tom kit that she recognized.

"Bushkit! I forgot you were here! How are you?" Blitzkit asked

happily, remembering the funny kit that had to go away. He was much bigger now, and he seemed to be more plump unless it was just his fur.

"Blitzkit? Where are the others? I knew it wouldn't be forever. I knew Softstep would give in... where's Gemkit?" Bushkit rambled on with excitement. Blitzkit looked up at her mother for help, but Dapplestone and her were leaving the nursery and too busy in discussion.

"Bushkit... Darkclan attacked.. and they took my brothers, and your sister..."

"No...no.. Softstep never let Gemkit out of her site," Bushkit said as his eyes wondered. Blitzkit wanted to say more but he suddenly took off and out of the nursery. She was about to run after him but a cream furred she cat quickly stopped her with a shake of the head.

"He'll need to figure it out himself. Maybe the adults can help him, but not us," Palekit explained as they watched him barrel into camp. Bushkit spun his head around, and searched for a scent. All that occurred was him running straight into Coldstar. He turned his face up and looked at the Caveclan leader with narrowed eyes.

"Where's my mother?" Bushkit questioned with a growl. Coldstar held a calm expression and remained silent until a worried plea came from behind him.

"Please Bushkit, can we explain this in private?" Dapplestone asked as she tried to calm her adopted son. Bushkit paid her no response nor care.

"Where's my mother?!" Bushkit demanded the leader who stood and walked away. The other cats sensed Coldstar's trouble and Redstar tried to block the kit, but everyone froze when a croaked command hit the air.

"Bushkit, come with me," Raspyhowl ordered, yet the kit still squirmed toward Coldstar. When he didn't listen Raspyphowl grabbed the kit by the scruff and headed out of camp. The dark

ginger tabby walked them down the mountain and through the rabbit run. The area was deserted by any brush that blocked the wind, and it pounded in Bushkit's ears. Raspyhowl kept walking, although Bushkit struggled. He didn't loosen his grip or him down until the reached the shore of the lake.

Raspyhowl sat the kit down on the smooth pebble shore and cast his glare across the lake. His glare stayed set, even though Bushkit tried to run toward the scent of Darkclan. He was a whole tree length when he looked back, wondering why Raspyhowl hasn't stopped him.

"You're not going to stop me?" Bushkit challenged the Warrior, who only let out a quiet chuckle. He sized up Bushkit with a smirk then glanced back.

"You can go and turn yourself over to Darkclan. You may see your sister but you can't save her or yourself... Not as a kit," Raspyhowl sighed. Bushkit tilted his head and began to fully understand.

"But we can't leave her! Not..not if they killed my mother," Bushkit defended looking down toward his paws. *She didn't do anything wrong. She was innocent.* He thought silently.

"They won't kill the kits. They're going to train them as Darkclan when they're made apprentices. We will get them before they're old enough, you need to trust Redstar and the rest of your clan. Do you think Blitzkit is disobeying clan members over her brothers being gone?" Raspypaw challenged. Bushkit sighed then stomped back to Raspyhowl's side. The older warrior smiled and looked down at him.

"I know it's hard... but Vulturestar won't hurt your sister.. not as much as.."

"Why not?" Bushkit questioned with a raised eyebrow. He knew Vulturestar was leader of Darkclan, but why was he so important? What kept him from hurting Gemkit?

"Vulturestar... is your father."

Suddenly, with one phrase, Bushkit's world came crashing down. He tried to understand but all he could imagine was a viscous red eyed evil Tom as his father. *This can't be..* he told himself silently but Raspyhowl bowed his head in silence. Then surprise, turned into anger.

"My father is dead to me then," he replied with a snort. Raspyhowl gave him a small glance and a sigh.

"Don't wish that. Not even on Vulturestar... Listen, my parents and my littermates all died. If Redstar hadn't saved me. I wouldn't be here," Raspyhowl said with dismay.

"Wait, you're kin.. died?"

"All of them except Redstar. Let's get back to camp, before Dapplestone kills someone herself," Raspyhowl decided and they both headed back to camp. Bushkit was left calmer, and much more understanding than when he barged out of camp. He had never thought of Raspyhowl very often, because the Tom was so quiet. The Warriors were quiet in general.

Bushkit hoped that when he made it back to camp, the other kits would have gotten over the Darkclan news. He figured if he tried not to speculate about Gemkit, everyone would be better off.

As they headed uphill, he felt so chilly burst of air hit her pelt. The cold was increasing and Bushkit could feel a storm coming. His senses were confirmed when flurries started fall. Sooner or later, the forest would be covered in snow.

As the dark Tom watched Darkclan run, victorious, from an all but destroyed CaveClan. His eyes narrowed when the black-blue freed she cat, at first appearing to be dead, now sat up. The day was becoming more and more intriguing. But he wasn't here for anyone in CaveClan.

The tom turned away from the sorrow and carnage, and ran on heavy feet after the small group of DarkClan warriors. He was impressed with the battle skills of these warriors, but knew that they could have gone at their attack in a much better way. They

must've known to attack later in the night, but their thirst for blood must've drove them into ignorance.

In front of him, fat white snowflakes began to fall. He grinned. The snow would cover up his scent, and keep him hidden from the battling warriors for as long as he need be. Now if only he were white, and not tabby, the snow would have worked better for him.

Unfortunately, the falling snow began to block his vision of the backs of the Darkclan warriors. *And all this stupid head-turning...* He thought with frustration as he turned his head to the left so that he could see the cats. *Curse that Sunlight...*

Up ahead, Voidfur turned around to look at Lostpath, who had a smug grin on his face directed to Vulturestar, who was leading the group. It wasn't long before Vulturestar started to stumble, then was attacked with a strong seizure. He failed to he ground and grew still.

"What's happening?" Oakstripe shouted looking around for support. He had to drop Fairkit to do so, and Gemkit was dropped from Vulturestar's jaws. Twistedkit stopped and looked back at them but quickly found his place by his siblings. They wouldn't dare run though.

"It looks like..."

"What?" Voidfur questioned wondering what the sudden stop was.

"He's losing a life," Earthfoot murmured glaring at the leader. He hadn't sustained any injuries, so everyone shared confused glared.

"You two take the kits back, and we'll watch and make sure he recovers," Voidfur ordered with a smile. Oakstripe and Earthfoot didn't seem sure, but they picked up the kits they could and set off. Lostpath smirked the whole time which set him off. Voidfur then looked toward Lostpath, and with a snarl under her breath, she bit his ear.

"You stupid fool!" She hissed at him, "If you keep grinning like an idiot, someone will know!"

Lostpath grimaced at the bite, but didn't meet Voidfur's harsh gaze. "I'm sorry, Voidfur," He muttered, "I was just-."

"Whatever!" Voidfur snapped, and looked behind her. She suddenly stopped, and grabbed Lostpath, forcing him to stop. She led him behind a rock.

"Hold on, look there!" She whispered. Lostpath looked past his fellow cats, and his stomach dropped. The shadow of a cat, a big cat, snuck through the snow after Darkclan.

"Oh my Lightclan...," He groaned. Voidfur nodded.

"You know we have to stop him," She said, and stretched out her claws, allowing her hair to stick up. "I'll go first."Lostpath nodded, and stayed a few steps behind her.

Voidfur set a friendly smirk then called out to the cat. "Hey you! Stop in the name of Darkclan!" The big cat stopped, and Lostpath watched with baited breath as it walked slowly over towards their spot under the tree.

The tabby tom stepped through the snow and under the cover of leaves like a monster through the fog. His fur was ragged, and speckled with round scars. His large paws had flecks of blood and fur, the left side of his face also had round scars, and his left eye was missing. All that remained was a haunting black hole.

The tom grinned down at Voidfur, his face twisted. "You're Darkclan?" He said, his voice smooth and dangerous. Voidfur stepped back, and glanced at Lostpath. Her expression was a nervous one.

"Yes, I am," she said, "I'm deputy to Vulturestar. He doesn't accept trespassers kindly."

Lostpath nodded, "Yea! He doesn't!"

The tom sat down, and regarded them with interest. He turned his head to the left so that he could watch them both with his good eye, his bright, yellow eye.

"I have an interest in your well-being," The tom explained, "Darkclan has great promise, and I want to help your clan become strong."

Voidfur squinted at him, and frowned. "How will you do that?"

The tom sighed, as if it were obvious. "I am going to help your clan.. when I get back in two moons.," He said, then and grinned in his twisted way at their surprised expressions.

Lostpath growled. "You? Sorry bucko, but we already have a great leader!" He looked at Voidfur and winked. She rolled her eyes.

"Sorry for this warrior's confusion," Voidfur quickly retorted before sending a hard glare to Lostpath. "We currently have a leader but..."

"Ha! Vulturestar? I doubt his leadership abilities," The tom said with a snort, "Vulturestar was barely a warrior when he took leadership. You can't just give him the role because he killed one lousy Kittypet. His mother barely raised him..."

"Oh yeah?" Voidfur hissed, "What makes you so experienced?" She challenged nervously as the tom looked at her, blinking his one yellow eye.
When he spoke, his voice was quiet and soft.

"I've led a clan before," He said, much to the surprise of Voidfur and Lostpath. "We would have been strong, but unfortunately, Lightclan saw to intervene." Lostpath snickered. The tom, quick as greased lightning, jumped forward and shoved the crazed tom to the ground. Voidfur yelled and tried to intervene, but the tabby sent her tumbling to the ground with one swing of his paw.

"You should treat a leader with more respect, worm," He hissed, and placed his paw over Lostpath's throat. "I am Thunderstar.. and I will be back. When I do, you'll both show more respect for your future leader..."

Thanks for reading! I was just interviewed on WattyWarriors 3.0 magazine. This story is doing great and a big part of it is you guys!

Chapter 31

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. Leader of Caveclan.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes. Deputy of Caveclan.

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor: Feathershade

Queens:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Thornkit(she cat), Tallkit (Tom), Silverkit (she cat), Palekit (she cat), Tinykit (she cat)

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Kits: Blitzkit (she cat)

Kits:
Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. 4 moons old.

Bushkit- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. 3 moons old.

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Kits:
Shadowkit- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. 2 moons.

Rainkit- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. 2 moons.

Herbkit- small gray tabby she cat with light blue eyes. 2 moons.

Bubblekit- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Gemkit- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. 3 moons.

Flinkit- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes. 3 moons.

Fairkit- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Twistedkit- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. 3 moons.

Clanless cats:

Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Koda- a thigh furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. 10 moons.

"We've got another apprentice!" Silverkit shouted as a young, but large Tom walked into camp, led by the patrol. Darktide and Feathershade exchanged exhausted glances while they led him to the den. The apprentices had a moon or two before they were done and Warriors. Now, there would be a new one.

"What!" Wolfpaw shouted as he looked up from the squirrel he was sharif with the other apprentices. He had finally got the hang of things, and now, there was more competition.

"Oh relax, Wolfpaw. This will be fun. We can finally have an even play battles! I get to lead my own clan!" Flamepaw exclaimed, before rushing over to the new apprentice. Her excited and crazed eyes must've scared him because the Tom instantly stood back.

"HI! I'm Flamepaw, and that's Wolfpaw, and my sister Sparrowpaw. So what's your name?" Flamepaw scrambled with excitement. Feathershade, Darktide and the others laughed out loudly.

"It's Koda. Thanks..er.. Flamepaw?" Koda replied with a weary smile. She nodded then looked toward Feathershade.

"Where's Redstar?"

"He's out hunting with Dapplestone and Jaggedclaw... Who knows what those three are doing," Darktide murmured while raising an eyebrow. Feathershade chuckled then looked back at the two.

"Didn't I say a quick lunch? Spiderfang and I wanted you two to run to the Lake and back. You still haven't worked off the weight from resting that moon!" Feathershade accused with her usual hardcore mentor antics. Flamepaw scowled and turned back to her.

"It was only a few days.. and we're not plump!"

"Yeah, we're not. I've been having to run laps for almost a moon now!" Wolfpaw shot back but Feathershade narrowed her eyes. She flicked her tail toward the lake, and the two ran off in a hurry. When leaving, Wolfpaw tried to catch up to Flamepaw, but instead ran straight into Dapplestone.

"Watch it, Wolfpaw!" Jaggedclaw scolded, beating Redstar to it. Wolfpaw gave an apologetic nod before dashing away but Dapplestone only grinned.

"Mommy! There's a new apprentice!" Silverkit echoed again, while the other kits burst out of the den. Bushkit and Tallkit both ran out and cheered when they noticed the new apprentice was a Tom. Palekit and Tinykit continued to speak excitedly about the games they would play, while Thornkit sat off to the edge of the camp. Ever since the Caveclan joined, Thornkit seemed more distant and only played games that could benefit her future apprenticeship. She even stopped picking on Tinykit, and became more focused on practicing her hunter's crouch.

"A new apprentice.. it's only been two moons since we had Wolfpaw. Well, what's your name?" Redstar said as he walked to the new Tom. He bowed his head reverently, seeing his evident leadership before replying.

"It's Koda. I was a loner, but I recently tracked your scents. And.. I want to join," he admitted with a smile and Redstar nodded. Dapplestone looked upon happily at the sight of the Koda, and the thought of the growing clan even in the deep of leaf-bare.

"Well Koda, step forward," Redstar began and the kits giggled in excitement. Dapplestone quickly threatened to take them back if they were not quiet. "Loner to apprentice, I trust you will learn the ways of a Warrior quickly and serve your clan nicely in the future. Koda, do you promise to uphold the Warrior code as long as you shall live?"

"I do," Koda replied with a lump in his throat. Redstar gave him a comforting smile. "Then from this day forward you shall be known

as.. Shiftpaw." The kits cheered Shiftpaw's name while he sat in thought of it. After the kits cheered, the rest of the present clan did and the tradition stuck.

"Your mentor will be... Jaggedclaw! Yes, Jaggedclaw is ready for an apprentice and I trust he will pass his skills unto you, quickly," Redstar announced with a satisfied grin. Jaggedclaw looked pleasantly surprised and walked over to touch noses with his apprentice. Shiftpaw's was quite overwhelmed, but smiled at the thought of becoming a Warrior.

"How about I show you around the borders. Then I'll have the other apprentices show you around camp," Jaggedclaw proposed before he led the young Tom out of camp. They were quickly off to training, leaving Redstar sitting with a grin.

"You little..," Dapplestone whispered as she walked up to Redstar. He grinned and tilted his head in confusion.

"What do you mean? Jaggedclaw was perfectly ready for an apprentice..."

"I agree but we both know why you chose him over.. Spottedpelt, or Swiftfawn. They both desperately want apprentices," Dapplestone pointed out but he shook his head. She frowned then turned back to the kits. "When are the kits old enough to be apprenticed."

"I don't see why they'd have to wait six moons, as our clans did. Perhaps becoming an apprentice at five moons, but reserve any battle training for seven moons," Redstar said with a thoughtful look. Dapplestone nodded in agreement but couldn't help but worry for the kits well being.

"What happens if Darkclan attacks in the meantime?"

"We'll fight them off. We're stronger now," Redstar replied looking over the camp. Many cats were out on daily patrols but one Tom was always in camp and in ear length.

"SORT THE HERBS CORRECTLY! How many times do I have to tell you?" Horsetail yelled from the medicine cat den. Sparrowpaw

sighed and ran back into the den where Horsetail continued to make a mess.

"Your organization makes no sense Horsetail! Why would Borage leaves be mixed with a Ivy leaves! And the Poppy seeds are everywhere!" Sparrowpaw replied looking at the mess that always took the same shape. Horsetail had his own vision of organization that was very different from Sparrowpaw's. His eyes blazed in frustration as her words slipped out, but she had grown to get used to his cranky and crazed remarks.

"You... you, need to focus. Flirting and eating will not get you anywhere as a medicine cat!" Horsetail scolded while Sparrowpaw growled in reply. She was not flirting with Wolfpaw at all, in fact she was helping her sister.

"I wasn't! I'm not interested in any apprentice.. but Redstar said the laws may change. That medicine cats could... have a mate," Sparrowpaw pointed out quietly, but it only set Horsetail off mood. He flipped his head around and frowned, glaring at her with big yellow eyes.

"That's ridiculous, it's tradition!"

"Horsetail, it's old. Back in the old clans, every medicine cat broke it anyway. Why have a law if everyone is going to break it anyway?" She pointed out quietly, but the elder medicine cat hissed then stormed out of the den. He was headed straight for Redstar's den, when he noticed the Tom speaking with Dapplestone. *What's wrong with this clan!* He wondered as he stormed up to him.

"Oh, Horsetail! How are you?" Dapplestone began but he only looked at Redstar. He began immediately with a rushed tone.

"Redstar... are you manipulating my apprentice? You know the Medicine cat role has strict tradition... All of it must be kept!" Horsetail argued but Dapplestone scoffed. Redstar was going to reply but the she cat beat him to it.

"Why? Having kits would teach them to appreciate life more, wouldn't it?" Dapplestone challenged while Horsetail's flaring eyes

turned to her.

"You..... I knew a recognized you... Skyclan aren't you? You're father abandoned you... and now look at you.. jumping from mate to mate... He was a worthless cat with no honor.. and so is," Horsetail viscously began before Redstar pushed the Tom away in fury. All the cats pelts were spiked in hostility, especially Dapplestone's pelt.

"Get out! Now. Go speak to Lightclan until you fix yourself," Redstar hastily ordered with a outraged tone. Dapplestone immediately walked back to the nursery without a word. Her kits were stunned and frozen at the conversation they did not understand.

Horsetail instantly left, quite taken aback and still furious. Sparrowpaw peaked out from the den, and seeing Horsetail leave, see quickly retreated back into the Medicine cat den. Redstar watched them all leave and left to his own den himself. He was exhausted and still trying to calm himself down. He never imagined Horsetail could act like that.

Early that morning in Darkclan, the kits stirred at the commotion. After a moon or so of training, the newest Warriors were getting their names.

"Do you think.. they'll be nice or.. not?" Flinkit asked the others, while Shadowkit scoffed and pounced on the kit. The kit was bigger and definitely a bully in the nursery.

"Shut up, *Dirtkit*! My father told me you're not allowed to talk unless spoken to! So shut up!" Shadowkit snorted while the rest of the nursery became silent. Fairkit sent a fiery glare toward Shadowkit who ignored it and looked over to Gemkit who sat quietly in the corner.

"And you! You shouldn't have even been *born*.. you're *half-blood*! Dirt, just like the other kits. If only *my* father would see the truth in you..."

"Shadowkit, they've had enough!" Rainkit said loudly, tired of all the unrest. Her brother scoffed then went off to his tiny nest and waited for breakfast to be dropped off.

Ever since the new kits came, they were treated like prisoners. Because no one was there was watch them all the time, they set up a head boulder against the exit that only two Warriors could move. Each morning and night, they brought one piece of prey for the eight kits to share. When Sleetpool was around, Vulturestar permitted her to monitor the kit's play time and tell them about Clan life. She was the favorite Warrior and closest to them. She was their advocate and friend.

Voidfur, on the otherhand, publicly despised the kits. Though her favorite was Shadowkit, whom was disliked by the majority of the nursery. The deputy had announced to them that two new Warriors would be receiving their names and Vulturestar wanted them present and on their best behavior. For Vulturestar's children, it wasn't hard. He was a bias father that favored his own kin over others.

"Come on.. it's time," Voidfur beckoned as her and Lostpath rolled away the boulder. Shadowkit was the first to run out and he sat proudly near the nursery. The kits weren't allowed to misbehave so Shadowkit tried his best to prove his worth to his father. Since his mother left a moon ago, his father only spoke to him and his siblings to tell them that their mother died. None of them saw the body, or wanted to believe him, but it was clear she wasn't coming back.

"Our two new clan members have proven themselves over this last moon. They are now ready to receive their final Warrior names," Vulturestar declared as the two new members stepped forward. One was a russet furred Tom with a white belly, named Fox. The second was a gray and black rag doll she cat, named Holly. Both were optimistic and excited about clan-life as every car. "Fox, do you promise to uphold the Warrior code as long as you should live?"

"I do," Fox replied with a grin.

"Then from this day forward, you shall be known as Foxheart," Vulturestar said with a serious expression. Foxheart smiled at his new name and the clan cheered his name until Vulturestar turned to Holly. "Do you promise to uphold the Warrior code as long as you shall live?"

"I do," Holly replied quietly.

"From this day forward, you shall be known as Hollyfall." The cheers of her name rain out until Vulturestar turned back to Voidfur. "Clan meeting is dismissed. Everyone can resume duties."

The rest of the Warriors nodded and Voidfur walked over to the middle of the camp, where she started to organize patrols. Meanwhile Vulturestar finished congratulated the new Warriors before heading back to his den. Sleetpool watched as the kits did the same, and her heart dropped. She made her way over to the leader, praying he was in a good mood.

"Vulturestar... I've been meaning to tell you," Sleetpool started as he turned with wide eyes. "The kits, they've been wanting to visit with you for some time. I think it'd be good, if they knew they were accepted into the clan," Sleetpool finished quietly as Vulturestar comprehended her statement. He stood blank until he turned back with an unexpected grin.

"Of course. How foolish I've been the past months... tell Voidfur I won't be joining the hunting patrol this evening. I'll go see them right now," Vulturestar said unexpectedly while Sleetpool sat dumbfounded. She didn't expect him to agree so willingly. "Why don't you join the hunting patrol in my place... you've been working with the kits so compliantly. You must be wanting some time out of camp."

"Umm, if you insist Vulturestar," Sleetpool replied. She then headed off toward the patrol.

The enlightened leader than headed straight toward the nursery where the kits sat inside. Shadowkit and Bubblekit were tussling while Herbkit and Gemkit were laying quietly. The other kits continued to make observations about the clan.

"That was a nice move, Shadowkit," Vulturestar commented as Shadowkit tackled his sister to the ground. The young Tom whipped his head around and smiled at the sight of his father. Tw rest of the kits were also fully alert at his presence.

"Thank you, Vulturestar," Shadowkit replied routinely, trying to hide his bouncing excitement. Bubblekit stood to her feet also but was sad that she wasn't acknowledged.

"How is the nursery getting along? I trust you're all closer now than ever," he asked with a smile and glance over the kits. Gemkit refused to look into his face or talk to the man that was supposed to be her father, yet had so brutally killed her mother.

"Well. Thank you. I don't know how much longer any of us can wait to become apprentices," Rainkit added with a smile and her father smiled back kindly. The three brothers shifted their paws uncomfortably at the conversation.

"In two moons I believe. But it's never too early to learn technique. And Twistedkit, you'll surely need to learner own in the meantime," Vulturestar mentioned all too kindly. The kit looked at the leader with intent curiosity. "I know some of you must be indifferent, but Darkclan will take care of you."

The former Caveclan kits exchanged glances as the Darkclan leader said this. Although they missed their mother terribly, the brothers were not as furious as Gemkit. Her eyes were locked on her murderous father and full of hate.

"Darkclan... will never be my Clan," Gemkit swore, loud enough for Vulturestar to hear. The large Tom turned her face to catch a glimpse of her, than he snickered.

"Then no clan shall," he murmured before leaving the nursery. The haunting presence reminded Gemkit that she could never rid herself of her father. He would never let her go.

New chapter! New new chapter! Hurray! I hope you guys are liking the plot.. want some more than tell me! Hurray!

Stuff is gonna get really fun! It's a winter wonderland for our Warriors...

So, should medicine cats be allowed to have mates? You decide... in

the comments.

Chapter 32

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. Leader of Caveclan.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes. Deputy of Caveclan.

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor: Feathershade

Shiftpaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Queens:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Thornkit(she cat), Tallkit (Tom), Silverkit (she cat), Palekit (she cat), Tinykit (she cat)

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Kits: Blitzkit (she cat)

Kits:
Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. 4 moons old.

Bushkit- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. 3 moons old.

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue

but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Kits:
Shadowkit- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. 2 moons.

Rainkit- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. 2 moons.

Herbkit- small gray tabby she cat with light blue eyes. 2 moons.

Bubblekit- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Gemkit- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. 3 moons.

Flinkit- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes. 3 moons.

Fairkit- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Twistedkit- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. 3 moons.

Clanless cats:

Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Deep in the night, all the clan cats took part in their heavily earned rest. Only two cats stood guard, but each rested their eyes drowsily. There was only a group of selected cats that found themselves awake that night, in another way.

"Come with me," Thornkit whispered to the two new recruits. Both were black furred Tom kits which she had been ordered to wake from their sleep in Darkclan, and bring them to the Dark forest. They didn't speak though their confusion was evident.

"Where are you taking us?" The one with the limp asked quietly. She flicked her tail to silence him, for if they upset either of the older Warriors, they wouldn't be happy. She continued leading them across the dark tangled path until a moonlit hollow shone up ahead.

"Yeah, where are we going?" The other one questioned loudly. Thornkit froze and turned around abruptly. *Were they completely oblivious?*

"Be quiet. We are here to be trained," she replied in a whisper. Both toms seemed unsure but followed anyway. In the middle of the hollow, was Graystar waiting patiently.

"I brought them, as you asked."

"Very good, Thornkit. Now, will you two introduce yourselves?" Graystar purposed as he groggily stood to his feet. His height was a surprise and quickly the new Tom overwhelmed the two Darkclan kits.

"I..I'm Shadowkit," the one without the limp replied clearly.

Graystar nodded than turned to the next kit.

"I'm Twistedkit. I don't know why I'm here. My paw is useless.."

"His paw is useless," Shadowkit added on quietly, not hateful in anyway.

"Silence. Both of you," Graystar echoed as he examined the new kits. "I am Graystar and this.. is the original Darkclan... It was known as the Dark Forest but times have changed. This is Darkclan and we set out to train cats in the ways of battle and its code. No one here will be considered weak unless their potential is weak.. None of your potentials are weak and that is why you are here."

"But Twistedkit is dirt blood! So is she!" Shadowkit sneered angrily but was quickly pinned by Graystar. The large Tom stared the kit in the eyes for many seconds before releasing him.

"No cat, of their potential and wits is dirt blood. You made that up to assure yourself you are special since your father doesn't give you the time of day. You must learn how to let it go, or else you will not be welcomed back here. These are your friends, from now on," Graystar explained with a calm voice. Thornkit, Shadowkit and Twistedkit all shared glances then settled on it. Shadowkit wasn't happy but figured that Twistedkit was the least of a wimp, even though he had the limp.

"Thornkit, will tell you what you're to do before next time... I have to attend to business," Graystar said before taking off into the shadows. Thornkit looked at the two but didn't bear an expression. She didn't want to show weakness.

"Graystar only calls us when he has the time to. It's not every night. You can't explore the rest of the Darkclan shadows because they can get dangerous. We can't use anything that we've learned here until we're apprentices. And most importantly, we can't talk about Darkclan. Not to anyone, not even among yourselves," Thornkit explained with a calm voice. The toms nodded but Twistedkit didn't seem so sure at the last rule.

"Why can't we tell others?" Twistedkit asked with suspicion but

Thornkit didn't care for it. She frowned and stepped forward.

"Don't say anything. It's just the rules," Thornkit replied with narrowed eyes. Suddenly she felt a nudging on her flank and looked toward them.

"I'm being awoken, I'll see you later," she said before closing then opening her eyes to the nursery. Blitzkit and Riverkit were both prodding her with their paws until she woke and got to her feet.

"What?" Thornkit asked quietly trying to get the sleep out of her system. The two smiled glanced at each other.

"Icywind is having cramps again. It's almost time and I can't wait to push around the younger kits! That's what the older kits did to me," Riverkit said with a sigh of remembrance. "I'll wait until I'm an apprentice though. It also showed outside, we thought you might want to come and play. The apprentices are!"

"Alright, sure," Thornkit said standing up and glancing around for Dapplestone. Her mother had once again, fled to go hunting with a Tom. Thornkit didn't like that she insisted on never speaking or thinking of her father, Patchedfur. She had barely heard anything about the Tom, other than he died at the hands of a viscous cat named Vulturestar. Bushkit was the cat's son, and Thornkit and her siblings were their kin.

"Are you coming?" Tinykit squeaked as she peaked back in for her sister. Thornkit nodded, smiled then followed her outside. A blast a cool air hit her flanks as she bounded into snow almost as tall as her. Tinykit disappeared but quickly resurfaced as Flamepaw picked her up and placed her on top of one of the two boulders of the camp.

"Thanks," she said looking out at the white blankets of snow that covered every inch of camp. Silverkit and Palekit barreled their way through the snow and joined their sister on the boulder.

"Let's pick Clans!" Flamepaw suggested as she made her way to where the kits and apprentices had gathered. It was agreed that Sparrowpaw and Wolfpaw would get to be leaders this time.

"My deputy will be Flamepaw," Sparrowpaw said with a smile. Her sister nodded and they quickly reformed Fireclan. The kits sighed at their usual clan pick, but knew that once they were apprentices, things would change.

"My deputy will be Tallkit," Wolfpaw decided making the tall black and white furred Tom smile. They made Iceclan. Flamepaw snickered at the fact that he skipped over Shiftpaw who would've been a wider choice.

"We'll take Shiftpaw," Sparrowpaw said and the Tom gratefully joined them.

"We choose, Thornkit," Wolfpaw said with a smirk toward Flamepaw. The picking went on. Fireclan chose Riverkit, then Iceclan chose Silverkit. Fireclan chose Palekit, then Iceclan chose Blitzkit. Soon, all who were left were Tinykit and Bushkit. The she kit was the tiniest of the kits while the Tom kit was huge. It was all up to Fireclan. Tinykit sat perfectly straight with the most pleasant smile plastered on her face, while Bushkit's head was stuffed in snow, and his rump high in the air.

"Umm.. Tinykit," Sparrowpaw said with a smile. The she kit cheered and joined Fireclan, so happy to not be picked last. Sparrowpaw than gathered Fireclan and they assembled are their side of camp.

"Alright, no claws or major biting. If someone gets seriously injured the game has to stop," Sparrowpaw informed getting many grunts of disapproval. "Fireclan, attack!"

"Iceclan, attack!" The cats charged against each other in a fury. It was so loud that it caused many ear sensitive Warriors to worry about the commotion.

Flamepaw and Wolfpaw me tech other first and quickly used their new battle moves. The ginger she cat slashed at him with her front paw and he bent down and dodged it. Wolfpaw then through his weight at her and she crashed into the show. Sparrowpaw meanwhile was fighting with Thornkit who raced her way over to fight one of the leaders. The kit slid under Sparrowpaw's belly then hit her on her open flank. Shocked, Sparrowpaw continued to throw

her best moves at the kit.

"Your going down Shiftpaw!" Palekit shrieked as she hurdled into the Tom, larger than her. Silverkit saw her sister leap onto the new apprentice and turned furious.

"Get off, *Iceclan*!" Silverkit shouted as she tackled her sister off of Shiftpaw. How dare she attack Shiftpaw! Silverkit thought silently. She continued to battle with her sister, off to the side. Shiftpaw focused on the fighting and found himself face to face with Riverkit, an older she kit.

Riverkit pounced onto Shiftpaw and dug her paws into his hunches. He twisted and tried to throw her off but she pounded him in the head with her paw. Eventually he fell into the snow and the she cat pinned him and headed for Wolfpaw.

Wolfpaw had quarreled with Flamepaw for some time until he got the best of her. The Tom had faked an injured paw then turned on the ginger she cat at the last second. He was about to take victor over the Fireclan deputy when a large force rammed into his side.

"Your done.. Iceclan leader.." Riverkit laughed as she pinned him into the snow. As she let out the familiar victory howl, Wolfpaw grunted and slowly got to his feet. Fireclan formed in a huddle and let out howls of victory but for two cats, it wasn't over.

Tinykit saw Bushkit, stalking toward Sparrowpaw, and she felt her Warrior instincts go. She charged to the kit and pounded him in the ear with her paw. Bushkit, unaware and shocked fell into the snow and over.

"Ahhhhh! You've shot me! I'm bleeding out... AHHHH!" Bushkit gurgled as he flailed against the snow. Tinykit stepped back and accessed her attack. Did I really hit that hard?

"Bushkit, I'm sorry.. I didn't mean to hit so hard..."

"AHHHH! The pain! The horror! Ahhhhh," Bushkit trailed on as he rolled around in the snow. Soon, the whole camp was disturbed by his outrageous shouts and the younger cats all turned.

"What'd you do Tinykit?" Tallkit accused as he flung to his friend's side. The apprentices all shared confused glances while Thornkit scoffed called after her mother. Dapplestone burst from the nursery and quickly ran to Bushkit.

"What's wrong? Is someone hurt?" The Queen panicked automatically but Sparrowpaw silently shook her head. Dapplestone frowned than looked closer at Bushkit who continued to flail and scream.

"Ummm.. it's alright Tinykit, and the rest of you. Just go back to the nursery... Bushkit, dear.."

"I'll take it from here. Everyone else can scatter. Actually the apprentices can go clean the Warrior's bedding today!" Horsetail proclaimed as he trotted back into camp. Dapplestone turned her head then shrugged. She then led the rest of the kits back to the nursery.

"Ahhrghh! Tall-guy don't go!!!! Blitzkit, Palekit, and no!!! Not you too Thornkit... The days of the Bush are over..."

"Get ahold of yourself!" Horsetail yelled and grabbed his scruff. Because of his enormous size, Horsetail had to practically drag him to the Medicine cat den. When they entered his dropped him in the middle of the den and sat back to examine him.

"Did you hit your head... Or were you born like this?" Horsetail asked frankly though Bushkit, now composed, did not understand. Horsetail twitched his whiskers and replied, "I see. So.. born like this huh? What have you been eating? You're grossly overweight.."

"It's my fur. And.. sometimes I eat a little purple root from time to time.. and maybe some leaves," Bushkit muttered making Horsetail's eyes go wide. He then smirked and turned to the ruts made in the walls of the den.

"That's it. You, Bushkit, are facing symptoms of withdraw. I once knew a cat like you. But they couldn't control their love of rare herbs and roots. The clan leader.. banned them," Horsetail explained with a sigh. Bushkit's eyes widened in realization and he

shook his head fiercely.

"I don't want to leave but, I don't want to stop eating roots! Never!"

"Then you'll have to do a few things. You can't tell other cats about this, because it doesn't make good Warriors and you could get yourself in trouble. Come here when you feel like it and I'll teach you about herbs. And when you become a Medicine cat like me, no one will question you chewing up herbs. And you'll secret will be safe with me," Horsetail said with a tiny grin. Bushkit looked down in thought then started to process everything. *A medicine cat? I could be a medicine cat...* He thought with an overcome of excitement. He would never have to run or be tougher than other cats, and he could still have fun will Tallkit and his Clan.

"YES! This sounds awesome! Yeah, can I have root now, I haven't been able to find it since it snowed..."

"No. Not now, Dapplestone will be worried. Here, take these poppy seeds and you can rest here. I'll go tell them it was just a bump on the head," The old medicine cat sat as hole headed up the tunnel and out. Bushkit smiled and chewed on the seeds gladly. He then curled into a ball and happily drifted into a nap.

Horsetail was happy to have helped the young Tom and know that he'd be a great apprentice. Sparrowpaw would be through her training in no time, considering she was very talented in healing. He figured her first evaluation would be that night or tomorrow when Icywind had her litter. Her cramps were increasing and it was only time before she went into labor.

"How is he?" Dapplestone asked as soon as he entered. Horsetail looked up and around as the cramped nursery, full of cats with wide eyes. He felt uncomfortable at the attention but continued anyway.

"He's fine. It was just the snow and a bump on the head. He's napping now and he'll be fine by dinner," Horsetail explained sending Dapplestone into a sigh. She smiled and looked back at him thankfully.

"Thank you," she said quietly. Horsetail nodded and was about to leave when Icywind stopped him.

"Can I have the kits in Spiderfang's den? I'd like for us to all be together and I don't want to bother the other kits," Icywind said quietly trying not to let the kits hear. Silverkit and Palekit however, never let anything pass their ears and they perked up.

"Oh, but Icywind you have to stay!" Palekit insisted while Silverkit nodded in agreement with her sister.

"Yes! We'll be so good to them!" Blitzkit also insisted with a hopeful glance. Icywind laughed but shook her head.

"It's only until they open their eyes. And I it's very cramped in here.."

"Dapplestone can leave. We're old enough!" Silverkit shouted out with a smile. Her mother twisted her head toward the kits and started to laugh.

"If you insist. I'm more than ready to rejoin the Warriors," Dapplestone addeded and her kits all shook their head vigorously. Thornkit and the other she kits shared smirks, knowing that their mother would be spending more time with Toms.

"Me too. Blitzkit is more than ready, right? I'll still be around for grooming though," Shymask said making Blitzkit flustered and giggle.

"I'll go tell the apprentices to make two new nests in the Warrior's den and one in Spiderfang's den," Horsetail informed before heading off to do just that. The kits all sighed, let down, that they wouldn't be the first to see the new kits.

"You may not be able to see them straight away.. but I need help with names.." Icywind taunted as she laid back down. All the she cat's squealed and started naming off names with such joy. Tallkit and Thornkit both exchanged exhausted glances then settled on the farthest side away.

"I can't wait until Bushkit gets back," Tallkit murmured. Thornkit

laughed then listened to the rambling of names.

"Daisykit! Flowerkit, or Shimmerkit!" Silverkit shouted out with a giggle. Icywind scrunched her nose but didn't have time to reply.

"If it's a boy, maybe Webkit. Since, your mate is Spiderfang. Or Snowkit!" Palekit suggested brightly and Icywind took more of a liking. Thornkit quickly became amused and joined in.

"How about Bonekit!" Thornkit suggested with a grin. Her sisters turned on her with glares of disgust but Tallkit laughed and nodded his head profusely. The day went on with name shouting until it was noon. The patrols that set out at dawn were finally returning.

Dapplestone, now liberated from her kits, settled down to enjoy a Robin. The bird was fairly scrawny but enough to feed her. She started tearing the flesh and enjoying the quiet time to herself when it was broken. Another cat sat to her left and started talking to her quite loudly.

"So, I heard your rejoining the Warrior's today."

"Yes I am. Thank you for that wonderful observation, Redstar," Dapplestone said sarcastically, as she tried to finish her bird. He sighed then looked back at her with big eyes.

"Listen, I'm sorry if I'm too intruding. I just.. really care about you, Dapplestone," Redstar admitted with hopeful voice. He hadn't been able to not think about her the past few days, and he hoped he wouldn't ruin it.

"I know. And I believe I care for you. But rushing into anything is foolish. Especially with Darkclan increasing border patrols and tensions rising," Dapplestone said, trying not to disappoint him. The clan couldn't have a broken leader at this time. "But I do promise you, that once the kits are apprentices, I'll give you all the time in the world."

"Thank you," Redstar began with a hopeful smile. As he set off to resume some leadership business, Dapplestone settled down to finish her meal. But once again, she was interrupted.

"Mommy! The kits are coming! Icywind just took off! So did Horsetail! Can we please watch!" Tinykit squealed in excitement as Dapplestone forfeited her peace and quiet.

"No. Not until they're a least a day or two old!"

Thanks guys for being the best! Go Warriors! Yes, we have new additions to the clans left and right so stay tuned!

Chapter 33

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. Leader of Caveclan.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes. Deputy of Caveclan.

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor: Feathershade

Shiftpaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Queens:

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes. Kits: two she cats and two toms.

Kits:
Blitzkit- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Thornkit- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. 3 moons.

Tallkit- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He he very tall and lean. 3 moons.

Silverkit- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. 3 moons.

Palekit- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. 3 moons.

Tinykit- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. 3 moons.

Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail.

She has green eyes. 4 moons old.

Bushkit- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. 3 moons old.

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Kits:
Shadowkit- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. 2 moons.

Rainkit- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. 2 moons.

Herbkit- small gray tabby she cat with light blue eyes. 2 moons.

Bubblekit- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Gemkit- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. 3 moons.

Flinkit- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes. 3 moons.

Fairkit- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Twistedkit- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. 3 moons.

Clanless cats:

Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Earthkit- a dark brown furred she cat with lighter stripes and fierce green eyes. 4 moons.

Sunkit- a yellow long furred Tom kit with blue eyes. 5 moons.

Five bundles of fur curled peacefully into their mother's white fur. Icywind watched them fondly as Spiderfang did the same. There were two white furred she cats, one large white furred tom and two black furred toms. All of the eyes were shut tightly as they nursed for the first time.

"I think.. The white she cat.. should be Tearkit. She won't stop crying.." Icywind said with a slight grin. Spiderfang smiled and nuzzled his nose into her neck.

"How about the other two with white pelts?" He asked with

glimmering eyes. She smiled and looked at the next she cat with grey tipped ears.

"Echokit. That's the name in thought of back in the Cave. And the Tom.. Bonekit," Icywind said remembering the wise suggestion by Thornkit. Although it was not a favorite nor seriously thought, it was perfect.

"They're beautiful names. Now the other boys.. one should be named Vicekit.."

"Of course. That's a handsome name. The other one, though I was thinking something to do with nature," Icywind said with wonder as she looked toward Spiderfang for suggestion.

"Ashkit! Cinderstorm will love that name," Spiderfang said with excitement. He then turned to Icywind and grinned lovingly. He had never been so happy before. The only moment that he found to match it was the moment Cinderstorm and him had become Warriors.

Outside their den Horsetail laid exhausted on one of the boulders. It had been a busy day and his built up stress had faded when Sparrowpaw did fine in delivering the kits. She did so well that he sent her and the other apprentices away with a good job.

The hardest part of the delivery was keeping the other kits out. Since Dapplestone and Shymask had publicly ended their Queenships, the kits were untamed and wild. The other Warriors had to blackmail the kits to get them to go back to the nursery. It was a nightmare. Horsetail was too overjoyed to settle into his next that night.

"Your moves weren't that bad, yesterday. Really, only Riverkit was close to taking you down," Flamepaw assured Shiftpaw with a smile. He grimaced still unconvinced while Wolfpaw observed quietly.

"She did take me down," Shiftpaw reminded her with a grunt. The fact that he was no where near the other apprentice's skills, was hurting him. He couldn't help feel behind and broken. After a storm

of thoughts, he finally broke his cover, "How am I supposed to become a Warrior on time?"

Flamepaw and Wolfpaw understood and their eyes widened with grief. Neither of them wanted him to be held back, when his ambition and friendship had already met so much to them. Flamepaw paced for awhile until her eyes lit up in thought.

"We'll help you. We won't let the weather, nor time get the best of you," she assured with a bright hope. Wolfpaw nodded and looked at both of them.

"Becoming a Warrior is hard, but not if you prove you want it. Plus, just getting your Warrior name doesn't make perfect Warriors. It's hard-work," Wolfpaw explained with a smile. He looked especially toward Flamepaw who thanked him silently for his support.

"Thanks guys. I'm sure it'll be fine.. but where's Sparrowpaw?" Shiftpaw asked, not quite sure where the she cat apprentice was. The other apprentices were confused yet Flamepaw slowly picked it up.

"Sparrowpaw's out getting herbs... she's a medicine cat apprentice," Flamepaw explained until she fully understood. She laughed while Shiftpaw narrowed his eyes in a confused manor.

"She's training to become a Medicine cat, not a Warrior. But I guess she's technically training for both.. but it doesn't really matter. She stood be back by the time we're asleep. I think she was getting more bedding materials.."

Sparrowpaw trotted down hill, hoping that she didn't fall into an unexpected snow drift. She realized it was risky coming out in the night, but someone had to replace the bedding stores. If it snowed again, Warriors would come in and drench their dry nests with their soggy pelts. She felt the task to important to wait, and this way, no one else would need to worry about setting off in the frosty morning.

Frostycloud, who usually took guard for the camp, was guarding that night and didn't even notice Sparrowpaw's absence. All the

Warriors still awake were either checking the scent of the wind for threats, or trying to manage the kits. The cream furred she cat shortly reached the streams near the shore and looked intently for supplies. There's nothing... Sparrowpaw quickly observed as she glanced around. The snow covered everything, and soaked everything. She would have to return empty handed.

"Help! Somebody.. help, us!" A shout came from only a few paces away. Sparrowpaw's senses perked and she dashed toward the sound. She reached an area very near to the lake shore.

Two huddles stood by the stream that flowed into the lake. They watched something splashing and floating down the lake. Soon, Sparrowpaw realized it was a cat struggling to stay afloat as they were dumped into the lake. She darted past the kits and looked over the cat disappear into the depths. The ice was broken in that area, but she could easily be dragged under ice by the current.

"Oh.. fox-dung!" Sparrowpaw spat as she took an urge of courage. She leaped forward onto the ice. It instantly cracked and she plummeted into the chilling water herself. The shock made her shriek, and her head went underwater.

Pulling forth her knowledge, she started to kick her legs. She slowly resurfaced and gasped for air as she propelled forward in the water. She dived down and grasped for the cat's scruff. When Sparrowpaw managed to grab ahold of the cat's pelt, she drug the cat toward the shore. Her strength was weakening and it seemed as if the two would both sink, until her paws touched the sand.

Once upon the shore, Sparrowpaw collapsed in a shiver. Her water soaked pelt made her numb and it felt as if tiny fangs were piercing her flesh everywhere. She had successfully saved the cat next to her, but it seemed as if the cat was past saving. Sparrowpaw tried to gain the strength, to look over and did.

The shock was almost as severe as when she plummeted into the icy water. Nightsky lay still alive, or close to death. Coldstar and the rest of Caveclan claimed that she had died after attempting to flee Darkclan. No one would ever speak about her again, until now.

"That was amazing! You were so brave! You must be the best Warrior of your clan!" A yellow furred Tom kit rambled with a burst of excitement. There was the yellow Tom kit and a dark brown she kit. Both of which were around Riverkit's size and age. Sparrowpaw slowly rose and shook the water off her cream pelt.

"No.. I'm.. aa, medicine cat apprenticc."

"Are you okay?" The other kit asked as she stared at the two cats. Sparrowpaw trembled at the cold of the snow beneath her paws and the blast of wind against her pelt.

"No... I.. need to get back.. so do you three. Could you run for help? It's just uphill..." Sparrowpaw asked as her eyelids wavered heavily. The two looked at each other and nodded. Without much further a word, they took off leaving Sparrowpaw and Nightsky in the silence of the wind.

The dark blue she cat was beautiful as the snow brought at her fur to appear blue instead of black. Yet, a large scar was left near her neck and her appearance was grim. She was breathing, and Sparrowpaw didn't know what to do.

"Nightsky.. please wake up? I don't know you.. at all.. but please. Many cats care about you," Sparrowpaw pleaded hoping the she cat hadn't failed. What medicine cat an I if I can't save a cat? Soon her prayers were answered an Nightsky woke with a jolt. The she cat immediately looked around the frozen wasteland and back at Sparrowpaw.

"Nightsky.. it's alright... I'm Sparrowpaw from.."

"Why does everyone keep calling me that?! That's not my name... I don't know who you are.. or where I am," Skystar hissed with intensity before attempting to stand. The she cat soon realized her lasting weakness from the cold and fell back into the snow.

"Wait.. we'll explain everything.. back at camp," Sparrowpaw coughed after working herself up. *Is this cat not Nightsky?* She wondered trying to stay awake and stable.

"No.. I don't belong here. I'm a rogue.. not a killer," she sneered softly before finally making it to her feet. Sparrowpaw narrowed her eyes and challenged the she cat with her glare.

"We're not killers. And you need to stop, what is wrong with you?!" Sparrowpaw accused in a fit of anger. No cat had treated her this way before. And no cat would treat her this way after she risked her own life to save them.

"What's wrong with me! I keep dying, yet I'm still alive!" Skystar shouted back in a fit of rage. Sparrowpaw's eyes widened but she still didn't understand. "I was killed by some.. monster cats... in a cave. I woke up and they pretended to know me. I left and then this cat wouldn't leave me alone! Some Lightclan cat! Well I don't want to be apart of any clan! I just want to go home.. but I slipped.. and died again.."

"I don't know.. but trust me. If I've learned anything so far, is that Lightclan will always be there for you," Sparrowpaw assured speaking through her own wisdom. She hoped that being a medicine cat would bring her closer to Lightclan, but she received nothing. Sparrowpaw yearned to know why destruction of the clans was necessary. But all this time, she still had faith it was for a good reason.

"Whatever. What is Lightclan anyway?"

"It's where cats go when they die. And it's where our ancestors live forever," Sparrowpaw sighed longingly at the thought. She missed her mother and she barely ever knew her father. It hurt her to not know if they were watching from the stars above. They should've been with Flamepaw and her, in better world.

"I've been there then. That must be where Sunlight came from.. You see this cat won't leave me alone. She keeps saying I have a destiny and I need to find the Flame, the Earth, the River. She said something crazy like, 'you and these three are destined for greatness'... I'm just tired of this. Really," Skystar admitted with droopy eyes as she looked at Sparrowpaw. The she at sighed and they both heard the other voices come into play.

"Worst of all... she said I'm with kits," Skystar grunted as a party of cats came into view. Sparrowpaw tried to contain her shock but was to cold to think about it. She shivered and looked toward warmer cats of the clan who all gave stern glares before gasping at Skystar. She quickly silenced them and said she'd say nothing until she got back to camp.

Sparrowpaw, feeling as if she was die of the cold, immediately was sent to the apprentice's den where Flamepaw met her and started to help warm her up., Wolfpaw and Shiftpaw met her. They all cuddled around her until she felt as a kit be smothered by her mother.

"This isn't necessary.."

"No it is. It's what clan mates do," Wolfpaw assured her. They all laughed together before Shiftpaw peaked outside to see the commotion.

"What do you think is going on?" He asked quietly, still suspicious of the new cat.

"I don't know, but Redstar's going to want to see me, so get off. I'll be fine," Sparrowpaw replied before darting across camp. She slowed when she came to Redstar's den and slowly entered.

"I don't remember anything. And I'm not Nightsky, not anymore at least," Skystar remarked with beady eyes. She didn't want to waste her time her when she could be discovering what happened to her. Now that she knew it was Lightclan that was trying to communicate with her, she had to listen.

"Will you please consider staying? At least until the threat of Darkclan is over," Coldstar replied with longing eyes. She had witnessed Skystar's transformation and amnesia first hand, but still didn't want the clan that killed her, find her. Coldstar knew too well that another Darkclan cat killed Skystar. She hoped that Lightclan would send her the answers, soon.

"Darkclan? Why would I need.."

"Skystar, you have seven lives left. Lightclan must've granted you leadership as a prophecy requested it. You're destined to lead your own clan, but it won't happen as long as Darkclan lives," Horsetail explained throughly. Lightclan had strange ways of working, but he knew this was evidently theirs. It was too perfect of a coincidence, that the mate of the Darkclan leader, would be destined to help destroy him.

"I don't want to be leader.. can't this just go away? I'll go back to the Twolegplace and no one will see me again," Skystar tried to convince them but Coldstar, Redstar and Horsetail all shook their heads.

Redstar looked up with a hopeful glance. He then looked forward Coldstar who shrugged. He soon made up his mind. "Please, stay with Mountainclan for at least a moon. Afterward, you can leave if you wish..."

"Fine," Skystar quickly interrupted, figuring it was her best bet. "But I won't stay cooped up in this camp.."

"You don't have to. But.. what about the kits?" Sparrowpaw broke in, which turned the four cat's attention to her. Coldstar and Redstar frowned when Skystar murmured a curse.

"Where are they? They're okay right? They're not mine.." Skystar rambled on. Horsetail nodded then answered her worried.

"They're in the nursery. All the other kits are interrogating them.. oh Lightclan, someone better check.."

"Skystar and I will. We can talk about everything else later," Coldstar replied as she stood with a yawn. She head toward the exit but Skystar hesitated.

"No.. it won't be necessary. They're staying here, their mother died. She would've wanted them to live the clan life," Skystar corrected with a serious tone. Both Redstar and Coldstar exchanged surprised glances but nodded in agreement. Both were delighted at the idea of more cats who would live, following the Warrior code.

"Alright, we'll go see to that. Horsetail, would you show her to the Warrior's den?" Redstar said before leaving with Coldstar. Skystar didn't leave, knowing the old Tom would want more answers. The whole time, he had challenged her with his glare. Once all was silent, he quietly began to speak.

"I don't know if you really lost your memory or not, but I do know, there is a savage cat who would stop at nothing to find you. He will kill every Warrior, apprentice, and kit to get to you. And even more, now, that your bearing his second litter.."

"What are you talking about!"

"You know exactly what I'm talking about. No she cat can not tell! I can tell," Horsetail hissed back. He then started to laugh as Skystar accepted her defeat and shrugged.

"Fine. I'm having kits.. why does it matter?" Skystar grumbled as she stared at her paws. Perhaps having the kits in the clan, then leaving would be the best way to start over.

"You need to leave before those kits are born. If not, you'll reek havoc on my clan, my only kin left. So don't waste time on leaving just because.. Redstar wants to be generous," he grunted before heading for the exit. Just effort he left, Skystar stood and stopped him.

"Who is he?" Skystar asked. She thought knowing the father would bring reconcile, but it did the opposite.

"He's Vulturestar, leader of Darkclan." After Horsetail left, Skystar was left in an uncomfortable silence. All she could wonder for the rest of the night, was why Lightclan hated her so much.

Meanwhile the kits tried to acclimate to the new arrivals. Redstar and Coldstar had just explained that Earthkit, a she kit, and Sunkit, a Tom kit, would be joined them in Mountainclan. None of them could believe it, and some were disappointed. *Whose going to get the good mentors?* Silverkit worried, knowing that they were older.

"Um.. well, what are your names?" Riverkit asked. It was obvious

someone needed to break the silence. The two exchanged glances before replying. It was almost as if they were referring to each other.

"I'm Sunkit," the yellow Tom kit replied with a smile. His pelt was a bright golden that was almost electric.

"And, I'm Earthkit. Our mothers died.. and we had no where else to go. We were from Clans though... We're happy to join, really!" The brown she cat replied with bright green eyes. Dapplestone's kits all seemed less enthusiastic, even Tallkit. He only looked over the Tom and turned to Bushkit who was dazed and dreaming. Thornkit and her sisters seemed to be sizing up the newcomers, even Tinykit was intimidated.

"I'm Blitzkit! And.. we're kits too! But we should be apprentices very soon, and you guys too! I'm sure we'll get along great but everyone's really tired. Icywind just delivered kits.." Blitzkit rattled on until half the nursery settled down to sleep. She then showed them where they could sleep.

After Blitzkit curled into her own nest, the nursery fell silent. It was almost a miracle for the Warriors, but Thornkit felt it would turn into chaos. She couldn't help but wonder, what Lightclan was up to.

Happy chapter everyone! I'm so tired so I'm trying to leave it short. Don't worry, we still have time for the next plot twist and we'll get some Darkclan in there.

So much is happening in Mountainclan thanks to all our new entries! Bravo! We have enough cats to make three clans, or we will!

Thanks to those who comment, vote and love this story! It really motivates me to publish more chapters, at 1:00 in the night. You're awesome, and so are Warriors!

Chapter 34

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. Leader of Caveclan.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes. Deputy of Caveclan.

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor: Feathershade

Shiftpaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Queens:

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes. Kits: Ashkit (Tom), Bonekit (tom), Echokit (she cat), Vicekit (Tom), and Tearkit (she cat).

Kits:
Blitzkit- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Thornkit- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. 3 moons.

Tallkit- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He he very tall and lean. 3 moons.

Silverkit- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. 3 moons.

Palekit- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. 3 moons.

Tinykit- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. 3 moons.

Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. 4 moons old.

Bushkit- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. 3 moons old.

Earthkit- a dark brown furred she cat with lighter stripes and fierce green eyes. 4 moons.

Sunkit- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. 5 moons.

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Ghostpelt- scrawny white furred tom with short fur.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Kits:
Shadowkit- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. 2 moons.

Rainkit- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. 2 moons.

Herbkit- small gray tabby she cat with light blue eyes. 2 moons.

Bubblekit- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Gemkit- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. 3 moons.

Flinkit- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes. 3 moons.

Fairkit- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Twistedkit- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. 3 moons.

Clanless cat:

Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Wind whistled all around the small gray tabby she cat. She watched as her surroundings changed dramatically, from a peaceful meadow, to a thundering stream. It wouldn't had been so terrifying if she was not in the waves. They washed over her with no mercy. Her lungs only filled with muddy water and her body weakened with no relief. When all seemed completely lost, something poked her and her horrid vision was not reality anymore.

"Gemkit! Are you okay?" She burst from her nest in a jolt. Gemkit

gazed around trying to take everything in. Rainkit sat before her with wide eyes. She sighed and hastily sat back down.

"I'm fine.. it's just another dream," Gemkit mumbled before licking her paws. Rainkit tilted her head and also showed some empathy.

"It goes away. The nightmares don't stay forever," she replied to Gemkit with a hopeful glance. They both tried to bear smiles, though Gemkit was not so convinced.

Ever since they were without their mothers, nightmares never ceased to haunt them. The only ones not affected were Twistedkit, Shadowkit, and Bubblekit. Everyone else had experienced them from time to time but Gemkit had them most frequently.

For fear of pity, she never told anyone that she had watched her mother, Softstep, murdered alive. Her daughter had never stopped thinking about her mother, so much that she had forgotten all about her brother, Bushkit. It seemed like ages since she was in Caveclan, and soon they would be apprentices for Darkclan.

Several times over, the former Caveclan kits wanted to discuss ways to escape Darkclan's grasp, but it had never came up. The simple thought of her vile father killing her own mother, brought Gemkit to her paws. She headed straight over toward where Fairkit, Twistedkit, Flintkit, and Herbkit sat in the corner.

"I need to get out.. soon," Gemkit immediately mumbled. The others rose their heads, and hastily made sure those loyal to Darkclan were not in ears-length.

"How? We're only kits," Fairkit mentioned logically while his brother, Flinkit, rolled his eyes.

"Why would we? He hasn't done anything bad to us," Herbkit whispered. It was obvious she feared her father yet didn't want to upset anyone.

"He killed my mother.. besides, there's no room here for a Medicine cat, and I know you want to do that more than hurting cats. Vulturestar would never let you.."

"Going against him is ridiculous! Don't you have any loyalty to Darkclan?" Twistedkit hissed in shock. His brothers turned toward him with gaped mouths, but said nothing. "I have a chance here.. cats will see my broken foot as a mark of bravery! Over at Mountainclan.. no one would care.. they'd probably try to make me a medicine cat! How ridiculous!"

"The only ridiculous one.. is you," Flintkit spat with a bit of anger. Twistedkit scoffed before walking away with his usual limp. Surprise did not express what the four kits felt. The remaining four looked around at each other with curiosity, wondering what was next.

"I.. I know, how we can get out," Herbkit whispered. The kits smiled hopefully before glancing out of the den. It was almost noon and practically all of the Warriors were in the center of camp. They were either sharing prey or getting ready to go out on patrols. Herbkit considered sneaking by, but knew they wouldn't make it to the exit. They would have to wait until all the patrols set out for the day.

By the time they were fed up with waiting, it was evening, and one cat lay eating a rabbit in the middle of camp. Foxheart's ginger fur was groomed carefully and Gemkit could tell he had a lot of time on his paws. With a single glance, the kits inspected the nursery, and carefully stepped over the other kits' sleeping bodies. Herbkit hated leaving her siblings, but she was confident that they would not miss. No one would miss her. She had always been close to her moth Nightsky, but not Vulturestar. Herbkit was far to quiet for her father to ever take a liking to her.

Gemkit took the lead, and led them across camp until they reached the tunnel exit. Everything was going well, until a voice snapped behind them. "Where are you four going?"

They whipped around to see Foxheart, slowly, walking toward him. He had a wide grin on his face that made all the kits shiver and grimace. With one word to Vulturestar or Voidfur, he would be praised by the rest of the clan. The kits on the other hand would face the worst punishment so far.

"If you want to leave, you need my help," Foxheart replied with a smile. The kits exchanged wide glances of surprise while Flinkit contemplated whether to trust him.

"Why should we trust you?" Gemkit questioned, beating Flinkit to it. Foxheart laughed in reply while Herbkit avoided eye contact. The situation was uncomfortable and the risk of being caught was rising.

"If you tell Redstar I helped you, I'll help you get out. If you don't tell Redstar or let me help, I'll wake Lostpath..."

"Fine! We'll tell Redstar but let's go!" Flinkit replied, eager to get back. Foxheart nodded and took off, leading the kits across Bear rocks and to the border. Crossing the rocks, everything was mostly flat and visible, but there were no patrols in sight.

When Gemkit's paws were already worn and tired, they crossed into the thick forest of the territory. She had never been to explore the whole territory but listened to what the Warriors said during their meals. *How long is this going to take?*

Meanwhile, back in Mountainclan, Bushkit and Tallkit were up to the same trouble. The tabby Tom had convinced his friend, Tallkit, to follow him to go find his sister. It had been too long, and Bushkit had a horrible gut feeling about the clans. Something terrible was going to happen, soon.

"Bushkit, are you sure? Flamepaw and Wolfpaw got in really big trouble! I don't want Redstar or Dapplestone to think I'm not ready, because I am," Tallkit said with his nerves racing. It was only a moon or two, and he was going crazy. Bushkit scoffed then looked back at Tallkit with a frown.

"This is my sister. She's the only family I have left! And I'm not going to let anything bad happen to her," Bushkit insisted as they continued on their path to the border. They were almost there when Bushkit dropped in pain. A throbbing started in his head, and a ringing filled his ears.

"Bushkit.. go back now," an eery voice murmured through the ringing. When it stopped, Tallkit was hovering over him, once again

worried.

"Dude, stop doing that to me! Hurry.. before Warriors from either clan see us," Tallkit urged, beginning to race toward the strong musk of Darkclan. Bushkit followed and in no time, they were past the border. With caution, they surveyed the dense thorns and brambles that tangled around the trees. The cedar and locust trees blocked out the bright light of the day. The snow was beginning to melt, so the two had no trouble getting there quickly.

"Tell me about Gemkit!" Tallkit purred, his heart racing at the pure amazingness of their quest. Bushkit shook the snow out of his fur and thought about what he could tell his friend.

"She looks like my mom, or her eyes do," Bushkit hesitated, "And she was my best friend... Until I met you, of course!"

He didn't elaborate, and Tallkit didn't pester him with more questions. Bushkit always got like this when he talked about his mother, Softstep. Despite the fact that the she kit had left Bushkit with strange new cats and scents and a whole new clan, Bushkit missed her. Tallkit could sympathize. If Dapplestone had left him with Caveclan, he would miss her a lot, because he knew that she loved him no matter what. Finally, Bushkit spoke again.

"Do you think there will be a bunch of guards waiting for us?" Bushkit squeaked, "At Darkclan's border?"

Tallkit didn't know the answer to that question. He knew almost nothing about Darkclan, except for the fact that they didn't like Mountainclan, and this evil cat named, Vulturestar, was the leader. Tallkit shivered at that name. It just sounded so scary.

"We're almost there," Bushkit whispered, "Let's get under cover, Tall-guy!" The kits wiggled inside a snow-covered log. Both peeked out of holes inside of it. They sat and waited, not daring to make a sound.

After a long period of time, a fluffy, gray-furred bengal she kit crept out of some brush, followed by three other kits that Bushkit recognized, except for one.

Before Tallkit could warn him, Bushkit darted out of the log, going faster than Tallkit could have thought possible. The large, poofy tom tumbled into his sister Gemkit, and laughed.

"Gemkit!" He cheered, "I missed you!" Gemkit seemed happy to see her brother, but Tallkit noticed that she kept looking behind her. He walked out of the log and addressed the two old friends of his. "What are you guys doing here?" He asked. Flintkit eyed the lanky tom kit cautiously, but answered him as best as he could.

"Darkclan wasn't... we just want to be with Caveclan, Blitzkit and Shymask.. How's Mountainclan?" Flintkit replied yearning to change the subject. Meanwhile Fairkit and Herbkit shifted on their laws and looked behind themselves.

"Mountainclan took me in! They are awesome. And I met all these other Warriors and kits. This is Tall-guy, he's my best friend," Bushkit gushed with a big grin. Tallkit nodded and smiled at Gemkit. While Bushkit and Tallkit bore expressions of intense excitement, Gemkit and the three other Darkclan kits were anything but.

"This is Fairkit and Flinkit, two of Shymask's sons, as you remember.. And this is Herbkit, our half-sister," Gemkit explained to the Mountainclan kits. Tallkit nodded and looked toward them with bright eyes.

"Your sister has been so worried about you guys. We would've brought her but, this was a secret mission only fit for toms," Tallkit said with a bright expression. Fairkit and Flintkit exchanged glances then started walking toward Mountainclan territory.

"We have to leave.. they're after U.S. Foxheart smelled then and took off. We should too," Herbkit requested as the three took off toward Mountainclan. Tallkit and Bushkit nodded and began to follow.

Gemkit, on the other hand, froze in her steps and glanced behind her. She could smell the patrol coming within width and she looked ahead at Bushkit and the group. *They could never outrun Darkclan.. I can never outrun Darkclan...* Gemkit realized, as chills ran through

her spine.

"I'm...not going to Mountainclan," she announced, trying to ignore the lump in her throat. "I...want to stay with my father in DarkClan.."

"NO! Gemkit, you've brought us this far," Flintkit argued while Bushkit froze in confusion. She shook her head and took off during the Darkclan scents.

"Wait what.. Gemkit!" Bushkit called out, but it was too late. A Mountainclan patrol rushed into view and Feathershade and Jaggedclaw quickly escorted the kits back. Bushkit once again did not get to say good bye.

Spiderfang and Raspyhowl rushed to the border, and met a Darkclan patrol, head on. Ghostpelt and Hollyfall met the two, and both shared hisses and hostility.

"Give us back the kits! They're Darkclan territory!" Ghostpelt demanded with a malicious hiss. Spiderfang would've pounced forward right there, if Raspyhowl hadn't stopped him.

"They're kits! And they're Mountainclan now," Raspyhowl replied with barred fangs. Ghostpelt looked back at Hollyfall, who was stepping back at realization. The scrawny white Tom snarled and refused to give up. I can't go back to Vulturestar like this... Ghostpelt charged forward, but Spiderfang, much stronger, caught the Tom with his claws. He dug his claws into the tiny tom's pelt and slashed with no mercy. All he could see in the tom, were the evil cats that murdered Patchedfur. He wouldn't let Darkclan ever have the opportunity to hurt his kits.

By the time Raspyhowl drug him back, Ghostpelt's white fur was stained with fresh scarlet blood. Hollyfall had taken off, to fetch help. The two Mountainclan toms exchanged worried expressions, than quickly set off to prepare Mountainclan. They were unaware of what Darkclan might do, but it was obvious Ghostpelt's death would not go without consequence.

"NO!" Maliceflame cried out, as she reached her son's body. She

whimpered in pain, knowing that if she hadn't caught Gemkit, she could've been here to save her son. Hollyfall had the tiny bengal she cat at her paws. The she kit had already declared that she wouldn't run, yet Maliceflame not Hollyfall cared for her words.

"Who did this? Who killed my son!?" Maliceflame demanded boldly, trying to hold back her sobs. She had never showed her son affection, she never showed anyone affection and now she couldn't compose her emotion.

"Spiderfang, Mountainclan's deputy I believe? That's what Vulturestar said," Hollyfall replied quietly, while Maliceflame stood up with a fury in her chest. She had to get revenge. She had to kill that Tom.

"We won't fight today. They'll be ready... I'll speak to Vulturestar. I'll take his body back, you take that dirt-blooded kit back to camp.. her father won't be happy," Maliceflame finished, before beginning to drag her son's dead body, back to camp. Hollyfall grabbed Gemkit by the scruff and followed Maliceflame back to camp. Gemkit just hoped that Bushkit, Tallkit Fairkit, Flinkit and Herbkit would be safe in their new life. With Vulturestar worrying about Gemkit, he wouldn't fret over the loss of the three other kits. She prayed that only she would take the retaliation of this event.

R.I.P. GHOSTPELT

This loyal little burger, was a bit too passionate about Darkclan. By the claws of Spiderfang, he was killed. Known as Werner, before he came to the clans, he was optimistic and bright.

We will remember you... Ghostpelt.

Chapter 35

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. Leader of Caveclan.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes. Deputy of Caveclan.

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor: Feathershade

Shiftpaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Queens:

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes. Kits: Ashkit (Tom), Bonekit (tom), Echokit (she cat), Vicekit (Tom), and Tearkit (she cat).

Kits:
Blitzkit- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. 4 moons.

Thornkit- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. 4 moons.

Tallkit- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He he very tall and lean. 4 moons.

Silverkit- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. 4 moons.

Palekit- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. 4 moons.

Tinykit- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. 4 moons.

Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. 5 moons old.

Bushkit- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. 4 moons old.

Earthkit- a dark brown furred she cat with lighter stripes and fierce green eyes. 4 moons.

Sunkit- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. 5 moons.

Flinkit- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes. 4 moons.

Fairkit- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. 4 moons.

Herbkit- small gray tabby she cat with light blue eyes. 3 moons.

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Kits:
Shadowkit- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. 2 moons.

Rainkit- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. 2 moons.

Bubblekit- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Gemkit- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. 3 moons.

Twistedkit- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. 3 moons.

Clanless cats:

Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

In the Darkclan nursery, Gemkit sat frozen in fear. The angry growls and hisses coming from outside the nest, where the Darkclan warriors were discussing how to avenge Ghostpelt's death. Her father, Vulturestar, wasn't in the camp yet. He had gone on patrol with Voidfur and Oakstripe around their Lake territory. She hoped that he would return soon, so she could just get her punishment over with.

Her half-siblings were still asleep, or at least pretending to be and Twistedkit was laying in the corner. His ear's twitched as he muttered strange words. She didn't know what they meant.

Gemkit hoped that her brother and the other kits had made it to MountainClan safely. It would be the safest place for them to be right now. Darkclan probably wouldn't care about hurting the kits as much as they would care about the rest of MountainClan.

In an instant, all the cats outside went quiet. The hairs on Gemkit's back stood on end as she listened for trouble. She heard Maliceflame yell something, and a quieter voice say something back. Gemkit swallowed the lump in her throat. It was her father. He had finally returned from patrol.

"Where is she?" Gemkit heard him say, but was too scared to listen to the answer. *Would he punish me? Kill me?* Gemkit sat up straighter, and glanced at Shadowkit, who was now awake. He had a smug look on his face.

"You'd better grovel, dirt-blood!" he hissed, "That's all you can do!"

Before Gemkit could reply, Voidfur stepped into the nursery. The Darkclan deputy didn't look happy. Her expression was stiff, yet she didn't grin nor smirk. Gemkit figured her father must've lectured the deputy, harshly.

"You're to be judged outside," Voidfur said, sounding annoyed, "come with me." Gemkit followed the she cat out of the nursery and into the center of camp.

Every warrior in the clan was gathered around the center. Some were looking at her pityingly, while others hissed at her. Vulturestar sat expressionless next to Maliceflame. Voidfur left Gemkit in the middle and went to sit on Vulturestar's right side. The leader waited for the warriors to settle down before he adressed them.

"Warriors of DarkClan," He said seriously, "We are here to examine Gemkit's crime and give adequate punishment."

At the mention of CaveClan, several cats snorted, like there was something funny about the clan they destroyed. Sleetpool and Nightjet however exchanged silent glances. They wanted to do with none of the politics of the clans.

Vulturestar continued, "And currently a ward of DarkClan." He looked down at Gemkit, his expression full of malice, his yellow eyes angry. "She has committed traitorous acts that have led to the death of one of our most loyal warriors, Ghostpelt."

Gemkit looked down at her paws, too afraid to look at the warriors that probably wanted her dead. What were they going to do? She worried silently. All she thought about was how relieved she was that her friends had made it to Mountainclan, and would live a life they wanted to.

"And now," Vulturestar said venomously, "It is my duty to decide what to do with this traitor."

"Kill her!" Maliceflame hissed, her voice urgent, "Leave her corpse at MountainClan!"

Several other cats gave cheers of agreement, Lostpath being the loudest. Other cats, like Sleetpool and Earthfoot, shook their heads at this. Vulturestar silenced them with a flick of the tail. The warriors were silent, anxiously awaiting Gemkit's sentence.

"Gemkit," Vulturestar announced, "Will be promoted to rank of apprentice, and will now be known as Gempaw."

Gemkit gasped, and looked up at her father. What was he doing? Vulturestar's once cold expression, turned to a wide smirk.

"When we leave to destroy MountainClan, and kill every opposing warrior, queen and kit...," he finished, "*Gempaw* will fight as a DarkClan warrior alongside us."

The loudest disruption of chaos, is what followed. Maliceflame growled and retreated to the Warrior's den. "You incompetent piece of fox-dung, *Vulturekit*!" She shouted. Oakstripe grimaced and followed her. Many cats retreated to the edge of camp, as Voidfur charged into it.

"Are you out of your mind!" Voidfur challenged him with a hiss. He only smiled and stalked off toward his den. With a flick of his tail, she knew to follow him. Once they were out of ear's length, he

started laughing hysterically.

"What is wrong with you! You made her an apprentice and you expect your clanmates to train that beast.. while you sit around and," Voidfur hissed with robust fury. Vulturestar turned back, a bit annoyed.

"Who else is better to mentor her than yourself?"

"Me! You got to be kidding me. I want the Tom, at least he's not worthless," Voidfur moaned with a narrowed glare.

"Gempaw, is going to be worth a lot. If you won't mentor her, Maliceflame will. If she wants to stay in this clan she'll have to," Vulturestar replied with a sigh, then Voidfur sat up. She tried to bite her lip but she couldn't contain herself anymore.

"You're fox-dung! You're going to place this clan into the ground," Voidfur whispered through clenched fangs. The young leader looked back at her with a glimmer of amusement, then his chest grew bigger. He let out of huff of frustration before stalking toward her.

"Attacking now is pointless. Killing that kit, is pointless. Waging war with Mountainclan doesn't need to happen right away. If it does, Darkclan will not be victorious," Vulturestar admitted with a calm nature. Voidfur spat, unconvinced, and confident they could take on Clan. They had been training for moons now, and she believed they were ready.

"And why is that?" She replied back, trying to kept restraint. He smiled, appreciating that she cared for his plans. Over this last moon, he had doubted her loyalty. But he knew that in times like these, she would be smart enough to listen.

"We cannot wage total war now. We will continue to scent our borders strongly but we will not change nor cross them. Understood?" He asked seriously, searching her glance for her word. She gave a nod then he continued. "There are many cats in that clan, and there will be many apprentices soon. The patrols have overheard their talk. Coldstar is bound to want to recreate Caveclan

soon. When she does, she'll take half of Mountainclan with her. The two separated, we will offer ultimatums. Cats can join the lower ranks of Darkclan by pledging their loyalty. Cats who refuse, must be killed or exiled. So you will follow my exact orders, for the sake of this clan. Understood?"

"Yes, Vulturestar," she replied quietly before being dismissed. Voidfur took off to her nest and let Lostpath know. It wasn't long before the comfort and darkness of her den enveloped her. She was surrounded by shadows until she entered the small clearing, filled with dim light.

Over the moon, she had learned the Dark forest was not that large. It consisted of endless shadows and dim lit clearings. Graystar rumored, that if one strayed too much from the light, they would be lost forever.

Once Voidfur and Lostpath positioned themselves near the center of the clearing, another cat's presence filled their surroundings. Graystar's entrance sent Voidfur's pelt on end, despite that she had no fear of the Tom. Lostpath had come once before, but was still adjusting to the daunting presence of the true Darkclan leader.

"Did you hear?" Voidfur asked. She referred to the conversation, she had, with Vulturestar that she hoped to not have again. The large gray tabby nodded his head then glanced between them.

"Don't listen to him. He's being held back by the pain of knowing his mother and kin are in Mountainclan. And if they know they are not safe, they will never stay in Mountainclan," Graystar explained boldly, yet Voidfur wasn't sure. She didn't want to wait. She wanted to attack the enemy and make a brutal move.

"What shall I do?" Voidfur asked in response. The fact that she was deputy made it easy and efficient to plan these things. She was convinced that without her, Graystar would be nothing.

"You, Maliceflame, Foxheart, and Lostpath go to Mountainclan, in a few days. Go in the dead of night, and kill the guard, then kill... Spiderfang. Yes, without him that clan will be weaker..."

"Yes, Graystar," Voidfur replied quietly, planning to do exactly what he said. The small black she cat was prepared to sacrifice any life to claim what she wanted. And she would gladly take Vulturestar's, when the time came.

A few days later, Mountainclan was finally recovering from the threat of Darkclan. The new kits were adjusting well, and the clan was prepared for what the future might bring.

"Daddy.. what color eyes do I have?" Tearkit squeaked brightly. Spiderfang looked toward his daughter with a smile. Her fur was pure white and never ceased to be fluffy, yet her sweet voice was the most endearing thing about her.

"Blue. I'm glad we named your eyes match your name, Tearkit," he replied honestly, and she grinned a bit flustered. Since he was busy all the time, the kits did enjoy the time they had with their father.

"They only named you that because you cry so much.. baby," Vicekit scoffed and Tearkit frowned. Echokit just glanced at her sister apathetically.

"That's not nice, Vicekit," Ashkit said, beating Spiderfang to it. Spiderfang still feared the threat to his new family. Someone would want retaliation for Ghostpelt's death.

"When can we play with the older kits?" Bonekit asked quietly. Spiderfang knew the younger kits would never be let out of their family's den, not with Vulturestar on the loose. He shrugged trying to look for words. Icywind shortly came in and must've heard what her son had said.

"When you are old enough," Icywind replied with a smile. Ashkit and Bonekit groaned in disappointment. She laughed then looked at Spiderfang with a grin. "Now say goodbye, Redstar needs to speak with your father."

Meanwhile, the other kits were in lower spirits. Shymask was relieved to see her sons once again, but the news of Twistedpaw shrouded that. Palekit and Silverkit also became jealous and nasty when the tom apprentices were around. Thornkit was finding

training with Graystar and the other kits a burden, and Herbkit felt conflicted with herself.

Herbkit's half-brother, Bushkit, hadn't spoke to her since the incident. She felt as if she was being blamed. And even worse, she saw Nightsky, alive and well. Yet her mother, didn't remember her. It was only a few seconds they shared but, it was enough to know that "Skystar" was not her mother. The she cat was now avoiding Herbkit, which hurt more than thorns. The tiny gray tabby she cat, felt out of place more than ever. Everyone knew she was Darkclan, and no one wanted to accept it. Luckily, she made one good friend.

"Herbkit, would you like to help me sort these?" Sparrowpaw asked with a smile. Herbkit jumped up and dashed over. Her favorite part of the day was when she could help in the medicine cat den. Horsetail took daily walks, so Herbkit usually wasn't around for his hateful glares. It was just Sparrowpaw and her, sorting herbs.

"You know. You'd make a good medicine cat, Herbkit," Sparrowpaw added with a smile. The kit became flustered but nodded her head eagerly.

Herbkit silently continued to sort the yellow leaves from the poppy seeds, and made sure all the stores were full. Sparrowpaw had to leave to speak with Smoketalon, so the den was all to herself. A few feet underground, it was cold and calm. No one every journeyed into it unless sick. When it seemed she had sorted them neatly she looked around curiously. There were a few neatly made nests down one tunnel. Herbkit wouldn't have thought anything, if a cat hadn't been lying in one of them.

It wasn't Horsetail, nor any cat or scent she recognized. The cat had a black muzzle and face, then the rest of their fur was snow white. Herbkit quickly determined it was a she kit by the scent, but it was mingled with the scent of blood. The cat stirred in her sleep as Herbkit observed then she realized that this cat may be an intruder. Sparrowpaw didn't mention anything about a hurt she cat. She had to tell Redstar.

"Redstar! Sparrowpaw!" Herbkit called out as she began to cross camp. It was morning and most of the patrols had already set out.

The center of camp was empty, and the only cat visible was Swiftfawn and Skystar resting at the edge of camp. Seeing the urgency, Herbkit took off across camp and was half way there when a loud squawk broke out above her.

The tiny kit glanced up and gasped as a huge bird of prey swooped down. It made a bee-line for her and she could do nothing but watch, frozen, in the line of events. The bird's talons attached to her pelt and in a swift force of its wings, she was lifted off ground. She screamed as the bird's talons crushed through her flesh and pierced her organs. Herbkit's eyes grew heavy, as she set her eyes on her mother far below.

"HERBKIT, NO!" Skystar screamed in agony, and Herbkit closed her eyes in peace. Somehow she knew, her mother would remember her, as she took her last breath and disappeared from their sights.

Skystar was left, her glance reaching for the sky. Her body quivered and in a signal vision, she remembered everything. "Swiftfawn.. I remember.."

If you LIKE this book, VOTE. Or else I will assume no one cares and I can stop writing this. Even if you hate it, tell me. I see 62 reads on the last one and only 7 votes. WTF, guys?

Thank you to those who are voting and commenting because it means a lot. For those of you who are not...

Now, Herbkit... Poor poor Herbkit.

R.I.P. HERBKIT

One of the first kits to be born into the new clans, Herbkit was full of hope. She dreamed of doing more than hunting and fighting. She dreamed of healing. Vulturestar and Nightsky/Skystar loved her very much, yet do to trouble in the clans and the ambitions of others, her life didn't turn out well.

Killed by an Eagle, we will also remember your untimely death.

Chapter 36

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. Leader of Caveclan.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes. Deputy of Caveclan.

Darktide- brown tom with black and grey stripes and amber eyes.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor: Feathershade

Shiftpaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Queens:

Icywind- white furred she cat with blue eyes. Kits: Ashkit (Tom), Bonekit (tom), Echokit (she cat), Vicekit (Tom), and Tearkit (she cat).

Kits:
Blitzkit- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. 4 moons.

Thornkit- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. 4 moons.

Tallkit- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He he very tall and lean. 4 moons.

Silverkit- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. 4 moons.

Palekit- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. 4 moons.

Tinykit- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. 4 moons.

Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. 5 moons old.

Bushkit- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. 4 moons old.

Earthkit- a dark brown furred she cat with lighter stripes and fierce green eyes. 4 moons.

Sunkit- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. 5 moons.

Flinkit- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes. 4 moons.

Fairkit- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. 4 moons.

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Voidfur- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. He has russet swirls that go down his neck half way. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Kits:
Shadowkit- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. 2 moons.

Rainkit- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. 2 moons.

Bubblekit- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Gemkit- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. 3 moons.

Twistedkit- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. 3 moons.

Clanless cats:

Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

"We can't stay here any longer!" Skystar yelled back at Redstar. After regaining her memory, she finally understood. When Vulturestar unknowingly gave her one of his lives, she was granted life. Lightclan chose her to lead a new Clan, that would help diminish her mate's reign of terror.

"You promised! Where will you go? Vulturestar will," Redstar disputed before being cut off by the she cat once again. He hissed and turned back to Horsetail for support.

"Shadowmoon, will come with me. It's not my fault she came all the

way here to help me," Skystar mentioned calmly. Horsetail snorted then glanced at the cat he fought wounded and sleeping in his den. Sparrowpaw must've had some understanding or knowledge of the she cat because she was fully healed.

"You can leave tomorrow. It will give other Warriors time to join," Cinderstorm added from nowhere. Redstar hastily whipped his head around to Coldstar and the Tom who were also listening.

"What! None of my clan.."

"Our clans. Do you forget that half this clan is Caveclan?" Coldstar snickered and she sat up straighter. The Mountainclan leaders exchanged narrowed expressions, but this time it was Horsetail who spoke.

"No, no. Until Darkclan is put into place, and the kits are apprentices, no one shall leave. It's not safe," Horsetail mentioned. Finally every leader agreed, and a compromise was made. Meanwhile the kits mourned the loss of Herbkit. No one was playing, yet Bushkit was reluctant to let everyone suffer.

"Come on, Tall-guy," he poked his friend with his paw. Tallkit looked up in acknowledgement, but the clan's mood had put him into a low place. "Let's go get Blitzkit, and Tinykit. Maybe we can go see Icywind's kits."

"No Bushkit.. I'd rather just nap, today," Tallkit said with a sigh. He hid his muzzle under his paws and tried to sleep while Bushkit pondered on what to do. He couldn't bring himself to dwell on the thoughts of Herbkit and Gemkit.

The gray tabby Tom made his way out of the nursery and toward the middle of camp. He had made an elaborate plan to tip-toe onto Redstar's perch, unnoticed. Bushkit snuck to the ground when he heard a patrol return. He hid behind a rock and giggled as he eavesdropped on other cat's conversations.

Redstar was among the border patrol that finally returned. He took joy in knowing he could finally sit down. He couldn't bring himself to eat though, not with the clan in such chaos. All he could think

about was how Dapplestone was feeling. To know what her son was doing, must be a burden never eased. Instead of approaching her, she approached him this time.

"I'm not fine.. But I'll never be fine if I have to see Vulturestar on the battle field," Dapplestone explained with a grim expression. Redstar nodded, about to reply, when she continued. "I want to be a queen again.. Yours, Redstar."

Shocked, he couldn't find the words to express his feelings at the time. Redstar's happiness was incomprehensible. "I'm so glad.."

Bushkit's eyes widened in realization as the two cats, tails intwined, headed out of camp. He began to rush off to the nursery to tell the other kits, when he ran into a big brown furred force.

"Where do you think you're going mister?" Horsetail challenged with narrowed eyes and a wide grin. Bushkit shrugged as the medicine cat beckoned him toward the den. "Don't you need to help me sort herbs?"

"Of course," Bushkit piped back in excitement. Hanging out with Horsetail would certainly bring his hopes up. The two trotted back across camp, as another cat entered.

Feathershade and Jaggedclaw had just returned from training the apprentices, and the they were exhausted. Each had prepared for their evaluations and were taught what to expect. Luckily, every apprentice hunted successfully, even in the weather. But through the long day, it was obvious they all need to work on their battle technique.

"Feathershade, can I speak with you?" Skystar asked with a bit of caution. Feathershade turned to see her and all that she felt was surprise. The last time the old friends had spoken, they had not reconciled. Both she cats had been troubled ever since.

"Sure, Skystar. Is anything wrong?" Feathershade replied formally. Skystar sighed before looking up at Feathershade. The she cat sighed then looked up with yearning and apologetic eyes.

"I never said sorry. When we were in one clan, I was blind and I didn't see the monster Vulturestar was becoming. I should've valued your friendship before his love, but I didn't. And I'm sorry," Skystar then swallowed trying to keep away the lump in her throat. Feathershade, still surprised, was finally relieved of all the anger she had built over the past moons. It finally made itself known to her, that all Feathershade needed, was her friend back.

"Thank you Skystar. And, I'll always be there for you, in this clan and the next," Feathershade replied with a genuine smile. She was finally at peace.

"Come on, let's go fishing."

Meanwhile, down by the lake, three cats weren't fishing. Voidfur had led Maliceflame, Lostpath, Hollyfall and Foxheart to the secluded shore. They carefully slipped past the border and onto Mountainclan territory.

"What are we doing?" Foxheart questioned quietly. Voidfur spun around with scowl on her face.

"Vulturestar told us to attack tonight. We need to wait here until dark," Voidfur said with a bit of annoyance. Foxheart exchanged a worried glance with Hollyfall, but she showed no concern. They all sat down in the hidden cove and waited.

Meanwhile, back at Darkclan and Mountainclan camps, it was almost evening. Vulturestar was returning from a long day of work. He was about to settle when he heard Shadowkit shout something loudly.

"I hope we get those flee bags from Mountainclan, tonight!"

"What!" Vulturestar demanded as he walked toward his son. The kit instantly shrunk back in fear of his tone.

"Um.. Voidfur said you told her to lead a battle patrol tonight," Shadowkit replied with a innocent tone. His father then looked around in realization and darted out of camp. *Dammit Voidfur*.. Vulturestar murmured under his breath. He only hoped he could

make it to Dapplestone, in time.

The sun set slowly, and Mountainclan prepared for a normal night of rest. Icywind's kits however, were spending the night in the Nursery with the others. Instead of Frostycloud, Darktide was taking night watch, seeing that the she cat was exhausted. Redstar and Dapplestone spent the night together.

By the time Voidfur's patrol arrived, every cat was asleep except Darktide. She signaled Lostpath and the Tom barreled into camp and took him down. Darktide could barely warn anyone before Lostpath raked his claws against the tom's pelt. Blood instantly spilled onto the dirt floor, and Darktide could do little to stop it. His vision became blurry and he knew this would be it. "I love you Coldstar..."

"Maliceflame, find Spiderfang. Vulturestar will be here shortly," Voidfur ordered quietly. The white she cat nodded and started searching for the scent, while Voidfur made her way for Spiderfang's den. She knew the Mountainclan camp perfectly, but would not give her the satisfaction. As she entered the den, she saw not Spiderfang, the the white pelt of Icywind.

"Voidfur!" Vulturestar called out viscously as he entered Mountainclan. Voidfur smirked and bent over the she cat, extending her claws. She then sliced open Icywind's throat, and blood spilled everywhere. Just then, Vulturestar broke through the den, and Voidfur dodged him, so that he fell on Icywind.

"Vulturestar killed Icywind!" Voidfur screamed, mocking a kit's voice. Vulturestar stood and looked at the dead she cat with a lump of sorrow, then realized what she was doing. He ran out to meet her, but was intercepted by Spiderfang.

"You killed my mate you son of a she-dog!" Spiderfang shrieked as he barreled into Vulturestar. The Darkclan leader pushed him off and tried to catch up to Voidfur, and her mechanical laugh.

"I didn't kill her! It was that fox-dung traitor!" Vulturestar screamed at Voidfur. Maliceflame screamed and ran toward Icywind's dead body. Spiderfang flipped and turned toward the Darkclan she cat in

a hostile manor.

"Get out!" Spiderfang screamed in fury. Maliceflame hissed and stayed by her daughter's dead body, while Vulturestar chased after Voidfur. Caught in despair, Spiderfang prepared to chase after them. Smoketalon and Redstar however held the Tom back form further hurting anyone.

"Not now," Redstar whispered while Spiderfang spat in his face. Coldstar had ran to Darktide's side in agony. Darkclan had left more than Mountainclan in destruction. Before Vulturestar left, he caught a single glance of a dark black she cat, with fur like the sky. *Nightsky*.. He wanted to stay but the she cat caught his glare and shook her head. He had to leave but he trusted he would see her again.

When the Darkclan cats arrived back at camp, tensions were the highest they've ever been. Voidfur sat on the rock where Vulturestar usually sat, and smirked wildly. The rest of the clan was up, but terribly confused.

"Attention Darkclan Warriors, your leader deliberately raped and killed Maliceflame's daughter.. he is not an honorable cat," Voidfur proclaimed to the camp whom all shared expressions of disbelief. Maliceflame was prepared to murder him with her glare, and Lostpath did the same.

"I did not! Tonight, Voidfur plotted an attempt to disobey my orders and fight Mountainclan.. She deserves exile," Vulturestar announced brutally. She laughed and jumped down, starting to circle the Tom.

"This is my clan now.. you're a weak, scrawny piece of dung.."

"Oh *Voidfur*, I always hoped you'd have more potential. But once a Kittypet, always a *Kittypet*," Vulturestar seethed. The she cat growled and glanced around. Most of the clan were cold but some laughed at her.

"Yeah, I killed that *pretty little* she cat, *Icywind*. She was Mountainclan and had relations with that dirt-blood Spiderfang.. Mountainclan deserves the worst.. and if you aren't with me.. you're

against me," Voidfur growled through her fangs. Many cats looked down, but rejected the idea, infuriating her. Lostpath, of course, stood with her, but to her surprise another cat joined.

"I'm coming with you Voidfur!" Shadowkit yelled, racing toward her. The three then departed without another word. Vulturestar scoffed and turned toward the rest of the clan.

"Voidfur, Lostpath, and Shadowkit are now enemies of this clan. Any attempt to join or speak to them will be treason unless authorized by myself. From this day forward, we are at war with Voidfur and Mountainclan.."

R.I.P. DARKTIDE

Known as Tide, this rogue was the first to hear about the new clan. Although pensive he joined and soon became a very skilled Warrior. His last words were, "I love you, Coldstar." We will remember him forever.

ScarletSage, Thank you so much for being the first entry. Because of her taking a chance on this, it has become so successful of a story. We love you and Darktide, forever...

R.I.P. ICYWIND

Oh.. dear..dear Icywind. Born as a rogue, Icy made her way to the clans and proved to also be a loyal and fierce Warrior. I hate having to let her go, because her time with us was short. Spiderfang, your kits, and your clan will remember you.

We loved having Icywind and we're so sorry that she has to leave in such a tragic death. Our love for her will live on in Spiderfang and her kits. We love and will remember Icywind, forever.

Thank you for reading. As you see this is the 36th chapter meaning a new entry will be updated. I also have very important things I need to know...

Chapter 37

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. Leader of Caveclan.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes. Deputy of Caveclan.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches

and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Nightclan' leader.

Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Apprentices:

Flamepaw- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear. Mentor: Spiderfang

Sparrowpaw- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind. Mentors: Smoketalon and Horsetail

Wolfpaw- a gray tabby tom with Amber eyes and long ears. Mentor: Feathershade

Shiftpaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 1 moon.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 1 moon.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 1 moon.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 1 moon.

Blitzkit- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. 6 moons.

Thornkit- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. 5 moons.

Tallkit- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He he

very tall and lean. 5 moons.

Silverkit- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. 5 moons.

Palekit- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. 5 moons.

Tinykit- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. 5 moons.

Riverkit- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. 6 moons old.

Bushkit- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes. 5 moons old.

Earthkit- a dark brown furred she cat with lighter stripes and fierce green eyes. 5 moons.

Sunkit- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. 6 moons.

Flinkit- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes. 5 moons.

Fairkit- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. 5 moons.

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Warriors:

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. She is mother of Werner.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Maliceflame.

Twistedpaw- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. Mentor is Vulturestar.

Voidclan-

Leader: Voidstar- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Deputy: Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Apprentices:
Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Mentor is Voidfur.

"All cat gather below the High perch!" Redstar announced with growing excitement. He looked on his clan with pride as the many apprentices and kits rushed out, with groomed pelt. They'd been waiting for this day for a long time. Out of the corner of his eye, he could see his deputy, Spiderfang, grooming his own kits.

Since Icywind passed, he had spent more time on his kits. He was determined to not leave the kits without their parents. Redstar admired him so much, knowing that if he ever lost Dapplestone, he wouldn't know what to do.

"They're ready. Hurry up before they burst," Horsetail snorted from where he rested below. The whole clan was called to witness this, do to the fact that almost all would be mentoring. Redstar nodded and turned back to the clan. The apprentices sat up front, while the older kits sat behind.

"We have gathered here today, to promote our young cats of the clan. Flamepaw, step forward," Redstar began with a warm smile. The ginger she cat smiled and did just that. "Flamepaw, do you promise to uphold the Warrior code as long as you live?"

"I do," she replied through her smile.

"Then, with the power of Lightclan, you shall now be known as Flamespirit. Lightclan honors your loyalty and sacrifice," Redstar declared with an echoing voice. Flamespirit smiled and stepped back as the clan cheered their names. "Sparrowpaw, do you promise to uphold the Warrior and Medicine cat code as long as you shall live?"

"I do!" Sparrowpaw said with an obvious laugh. Flamespirit and her both giggled before Redstar replied.

"Then with the power of Lightclan, you shall be known as Sparrowfeather. Lightclan honors your loyalty and sacrifice." Next Wolfpaw stepped forward. He became Wolfheart, and Shiftpaw because Shiftclaw. Now that the four apprentices became new Warriors, Redstar moved onto the new kits.

One by one, Redstar asked the kits if they pledged to follow the Warrior code. Each replied with yes, given their new names, and each was given a mentor. Bushpaw received Horsetail, Riverpaw received Swiftfawn, Palepaw received Shymask, Earthpaw received Dapplestone, Silverpaw received Frostycloud, Fairpaw received Cinderstorm, Flintpaw received Spottedpelt, Tallpaw received Smoketalon, Blitzpaw received Coldstar, Thornpaw received

Redstar, Sunpaw received Jaggedclaw and lastly Tinypaw received Raspyhowl. When all were named, the clan held a feast for the new apprentices. Since it was evening, they wouldn't start training until the morning. The new apprentices were eager to occupy their new dens.

"I'm so glad we're finally Warriors," Flamespirit said with a relieved smile. Sparrowfeather nodded and turned toward the others.

"I'm going to go get my nest set up. I'll see you later," she replied before departing. The two toms watched her walk away before turning back to Flamespirit. Wolfheart wanted to suggest they all go hunting, but they were interrupted by Silverpaw.

"Hey Shiftclaw, will you show us around a little bit? Horsetail wants us to remove his ticks but, none of us know where the mouse bile is," Silverpaw said to the Tom. He nodded with a smile and led her off to where she could find it. Flamespirit and Wolfheart exchanged grins before heading out themselves.

The gray tabby Tom began by checking the scents of the forest. It was still leaf-bare, however the snow was gone and only the chill was left. Prey was slowly returning and the two new warriors planned to break the ice to hunt. Fishing had become a unique way of hunting, which brought different tasting prey into the clan. They silently made their way down to the lake, until Flamespirit started to speak.

"You know.. Wolfheart, you've been such a good friend to me and since we're Warriors now.. I was just wondering if you'd want to.. you know, be mates?" Flamespirit said with a weary approach. Wolfheart froze in his steps then looked back at her with a gaping jaw.

"What about Shiftclaw.. I thought you two were.."

"No way!" She interrupted quickly, stepping closer to him. "He's nice and all but I don't need that type of Tom. I need.. a good deputy, and someone to watch the kits.. you know, while I'm leader.. We'll talk about it later but, let's hunt in the meantime..."

Wolfheart watched Flamespirit trot toward the lake with hopeful sigh. *Wow.. that quick..* He had never thought he had a chance with her, but according to Flamespirit, he was the only Tom she had eyes for. *Being a Warrior is great...*

Blitzpaw made her way across the soggy clearing towards Dapplestone's den. She took pride in that she had finally become an apprentice. Her mentor, Coldstar, had shown her the northern parts of the territory, toward Caveclan. Blitzpaw expected her to go back to Caveclan one day. But Blitzpaw wasn't sure that was what she wanted. She had spent so much time in Mountainclan, that it felt like a true home.

The apprentice's den was one of the bigger dens but the entrance was small, just barely big enough for Redstar or Spiderfang to fit through. Its entrance was lined with holly and other snow-plants, and you could frequently see Sparrowfeather stripping these stalks for the herbs and berries that grew on them.

As Blitzpaw made her way inside, she found herself wondering, with great excitement, if Bushpaw would be inside. She had found that over time, she thought about the fluffy grey kit more and more often. She didn't know why; the warriors frequently mocked him in private for his softness, but she found it endearing. He was funny and friendly, and his softness made him easy to confide in.

Inside, Blitzpaw found Tinypaw and Riverpaw playing together. It looked like a form of sparring, with Riverpaw frequently trying to lunge at Tinypaw, but the smaller kit would just dart out of the way.

"Hey! Fight me!!" Riverkit growled, frustrated. She had hoped to practice moves before de displayed them to Swiftfawn. Tinypaw just purred with delight and dodged, once again.

"I can't fight you," Tinypaw squeaked, "Not yet!" Dapplestone's daughter was clearly enjoying herself. Riverpaw and Tinypaw loved to tease each other.

They had just began another game, and Tinypaw, who had been attempting to pounce on Tallpaw, who had returned from

examining the territory. Bushpaw them stormed in after him and fell on his face. Everyone had thought it was pretty funny, until Redstar had come along.

"What is going on here?" Redstar had demanded. Sheepishly, Bushpaw stood and moved away from Tinypaw, who was gasping for breath. Redstar approached the group of new apprentices, who had all hung their heads, embarrassed. While they could be training, they were playing like kits. Blitzpaw was sure that they would all get into trouble, and her mother, Shymask, would scold her for it. But Redstar simply approached Tinypaw, who was trying to fix the pointy tufts of pelt. He looked down at Tinypaw.

"Did you think that you could take Tallpaw down?" Redstar asked. It didn't sound insulting. It sounded like an honest question. Tinykit looked down at her paws.

"I guess.. maybe," she had replied in a whisper, "I was just trying to tire Riverpaw out...," Redstar nodded at this, and surveyed the little group's battleground. He looked like he was thinking. After a brief pause, he looked back at Tinypaw and the rest.

"May I make a suggestion," He asked, "Warrior to future warriors?"

They had all nodded eagerly, except Bushpaw was quite pensive. Redstar walked into their midst, and sat down. The apprentices gathered around him.

"Tinypaw, taking another cat head-on in a fight would be unwise. So your tactics of evasion were correct. Yet, your can still do more," he began, "You should focus on learning to dodge attacks, and tire the cat out before attacking." Tinypaw nodded in agreement. Her smile was hopeful, seeing that she did have a hands. Redstar then looked at Bushpaw.

"Bushpaw, I believe Horsetail was looking for you," he mentioned slyly. Bushpaw whiskers quivered, and the fluffy Tom nodded, then darted off.

Redstar smiled, "I am glad I could help. You're all doing very well." Then he had walked away, leaving them to their business. They had

all gained new appreciation for Redstar then, and now Tinypaw was eager to use her new attack advice soon.

"Hey guys," Blitzpaw asked nonchalantly, "Have you seen Earthpaw? She said Dapplestone would take us fishing tomorrow. I just wanted to check..."

Riverpaw looked up, and shrugged. "No.. But I think Dapplestone is seeing Horsetail. Or at least that's what Swiftfawn was talking about.."

"Okay," Blitzpaw sighed. She blinked in confusion. Dapplestone quietly disliked the old medicine cat for his open hostility toward the issue of wether or not medicine cats should have mates. Dapplestone had never thought that it would be an issue, but now it was a huge debate among the warriors.

"Why is she visiting Horsetail?"

"She's probably going to have lots and lots of kits," Tinykit squeaked excitedly, "And she hasn't been feeling well."

"Kits?" Blitzpaw scoffed, "But.. isn't that quick?" Blitzpaw never understood that part of Dapplestone. Her mother, Shymask, had told her that Dapplestone liked raising kits, but this would be her third litter, and the she cat wasn't that old.

In Horsetail's den, the medicine cat was scolding Dapplestone for that very reason. She had come quietly while many of the apprentices were still out. She didn't want to make a scene on their big day.

"This is ridiculous!" Horsetail ranted, while Dapplestone sat indifferently. Every few minutes, she'd glare at the pile of poppy seeds beside she cat. The she cat had come for closure, and now she was getting a lecture.

"I don't care what you think, Horsetail," Dapplestone explained in a calm voice, "I just need your medicinal knowledge. I've never felt this way! Are they coming early or something. I'm getting nauseous."

Horsetail paused and nodded, "Yes. Just wait a minute," He went over to a pile of leaves and grabbed a mouthful. Turning back, he dropped them at Dapplestone's feet.

"Take this for nausea, but no more than half a leaf at a time. Tell Sparrowpaw.. I mean Sparrowfeather, if you need more," Horsetail instructed calmly. His bad mood had suddenly faded, and he was focused on medicine. Dapplestone examined the leaves. She didn't know their name, but she recalled receiving some while being pregnant with Tulip and Vulturestar, back when she was just an apprentice in Skyclan.

She faintly remembered the days at Skyclan. Her mentor had been Thunderstrike, soon to be Thunderstar. He was a new Warrior at the time and his father, Graystar, was eager to get him ready for being future deputy. This was of course, set up, but Dapplestone never cared at the time. She fell in love with Thunderstar and had his kits a moon after receiving her Warrior name. She doubted her love for Thunderstar and Patchedfur would vanish. Redstar and hers love was stronger, as if they had a connection all along. She had never been this nervous about delivering kits.

She watched Horsetail, who was now putting strange, purple-tipped roots into a little nook inside the den wall. Dapplestone suddenly remembered the other reason that she came to see Horsetail.

"I haven't been pregnant for very long," she began, nervous, "but it looks like I've been with kits for twice as long. Why?"

Horsetail paused, a weird look on his face. He cocked his head to the side and examined Dapplestone. The she cat watched with great confusion as the medicine cat shrugged.

"It shouldn't be a big deal for you..," He muttered quietly, trying to turn away.

"What shouldn't be a big deal for me??" Dapplestone snapped, anxiety in her voice. She hated when people his things from her.

"Well..," Horsetail coughed, "You're probably just going to have a lot of kits."

"A lot?!" Her ears perked up, "How much is a lot?"

"Five, maybe six..."

"Six?!" Dapplestone hissed, surprised.

"Probably sevenish.. Yep, definitely seven.."

Dapplestone's tail twitched. She took a deep breath and spoke, "Are you saying that I could have seven kits- a whole seven kits- in one litter?"
Horsetail nodded, and walked past Dapplestone and out of the den.

"I wouldn't let it bother you," Horsetail called over his shoulder, "I could easily be wrong! But who are we kidding, I'm never wrong!"

Dapplestone frowned as she heard his chuckles slowly left. The chilly air hit her back when she left Horsetail's den, and the she cat shivered. It was so cold, but luckily spring would bring new life and change.

There's a little chapter for you.
If you haven't noticed, new changes have been made to the entry page. If your character is already in play, you're good.

In case any of you are thinking of entering, just please check start from the beginning because they explain everything.

And I appreciate those I you who not only read but vote and comment! Give a HOO HAA in the comments if you're one! I always mention this because, it's crazy how I see 235 something reads an 7 votes and 7 comments. Crazy.

You'd think people would want to say something? Those ghosts...

But yes. Things are getting exciting. Please, if you haven't already, specify which of the existing clans your cat wants to be apart of. Especially young warriors apprentices.

Thank you.

And thank you CeRosette who had to go through a lot to email the passage of hers used in this chapter.

Chapter 38

Allegiances

Mountainclan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cats:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. Leader of Caveclan.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes. Deputy of Caveclan.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Coldstar

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Redstar

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Smoketalon

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Earthpaw- a dark brown furred she cat with lighter stripes and fierce green eyes. Mentor: Dapplestone

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes.

Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Flintpaw- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes. Mentor: Spottedpelt

Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 1 moon.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 1 moon.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 1 moon.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 1 moon.

Darkclan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Warriors:

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel

blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Maliceflame.

Twistedpaw- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. Mentor is Vulturestar.

Voidclan-

Leader: Voidstar- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Deputy: Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Apprentices:
Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with brown eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with Amber eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Robb- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Puddlepaw- white and grey furred she cat with icy blue eyes.

Kits:
Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be

seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one.

Nightclan-

Leader: Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Expecting Vulturestar's kits.

Deputy: Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Shadowpaw snuck through the dense brambles and brackens to barely catch a glimpse of them. His two sisters were on Darkclan's patrol with Sleetpool, and they seemed awfully happy. Their expressions were lifted and their bellies have no sign of them being hungry. *How can they be there.. when I'm here?* Shadowpaw silently scowled as he watched them continue to hunt the prey amidst the rocks.

It had been almost a moon since he left, and Shadowpaw was beginning to regret his decision. Graystar no longer spoke to him or Voidstar, and he did not take part in any battle nor adventures as he had hoped. His mentor was now Voidstar, and she assured him that all would be well with time. Yet, he wasn't so sure.

When he had finished dwelling over his sisters' happiness, he departed back to the land where Voidclan was held. It was as far west as the forest would let them. The camp was centered near a dark Twolegplace where rotten prey and trash was held. They lived not in it but near there. They lived particularly on a cliff, overlooking Darkclan. It was the perfect location to watch their enemies, and high enough up, so Darkclan would never dare to search. They lived near the trash and rotten prey to cover up their scents with new ones. Vulturestar and his trackers still hadn't found them.

He was climbing up the steep hill, as usual, when he noticed a dark large shape at the top of the hill. Was it a new rogue? Voidstar and Lostpath began recruiting old acquaintances and any rogues they could find. All that declined, were immediately killed so that their

enemies may never discover their plans. So far they had two littermates, Cobb and Cindy, a menacing Tom named Lynch, a tough but humorous Tom named Robb, and a sweet she cat named Puddlepaw. Puddlepaw was younger than the others so Voidstar made her Lostpath's apprentice. The young she cat, however was not battle material, so much, that Voidstar appointed her to be strictly a hunter. Putting her there was wise, since it's impossible for cats like her to destroy their enemies.

As Shadowpaw became in visible distance with the Tom, he noticed something strange about him. His large structure, thick gray tabby pelt, and a piercing yellow eye sent him on edge. No... he couldn't of found us.. he's going to kill me... The Tom walked toward him and all Shadowpaw could do was freeze in apprehension. It wasn't until steps away, that he noticed the cat wasn't his father because a gouge was where his left eye should've been.

"Father.. that isn't you.. is it?" Shadowpaw questioned cautiously as the muscular Tom stood over him. The young apprentices couldn't stop glancing at the Tom's eye, for he had never seen anything like it.

"Vain?" The strange cat asked looking into the apprentice's eyes, then he shook his head. "Nevermind, you can't be.. I forgot.."

"Who are you?" Shadowpaw interrupted looking at the Tom closer. He was older then most of the cats in clans he had encountered, except far younger than Graystar.

"I am Thunderstar, former leader of Skyclan. I demand to see your leader before I say anything else," he ordered sternly and Shadowpaw suddenly became alarmed. All the other cats were out hunting, so he would have to occupy this Tom.

"She'll be back soon.. I'm sorry.. but you look a lot like my father! Except for.."

"Except for what? My eye? Stop talking to me about your delusions kit. I only had one son and you're not him," he growled looking away brashly. Shadowpaw was intrigued by this, and wanted to know more.

"What's his name?" Shadowpaw asked quietly. The older Tom reluctantly sat up, seeing that this mere kit wouldn't leave him alone.

"Vain.. but he goes by Vulturestar now.."

"Wait, what!"

"Shadowpaw, who is that?" Voidstar called from below the hill. He gulped and looked toward the Tom who had no problem with taking the apprentice into his claws. The patrol then raced to the top until they were all on flat ground.

"Thunderstar!" She gasped, eyes wide. "W-What are you doing here? It's been long...," The she cat lowered her gaze, but Thunderstar noticed her taking a position of defense. He smirked at her confidence, but then turn to the rogues.

"Go out for another patrol, rogues. Don't bother us," Thunderstar ordered and Lostpath nodded in agreement, seeing that this was personal business. "Are you really so proud, Voidfur? Do you think that you can take me on?"

The she cat didn't answer, she kept her eyes glued to the ground at his feet. Thunderstar looked at Lostpath, who was giggling nervously and digging his claws into the soft dirt.

"Why did you leave DarkClan?" He asked, circling Voidstar, his tail flicking with barely controlled rage. Voidfur mumbled something, and Lostpath giggled again. Shadowpaw hissed, still caught under the Tom's claws.

Thunderstar stopped in front of Voidstar. "No answers from the adults?" He hissed. "Very well...,"

Thunderstar slowly began to pierce Shadowpaw's pelt. He placed a paw on the kit's back, pinning him to the ground.

"What is your name, kit?" He hissed. Behind him, Voidfur stared in horror, while Lostpath watched with amusement. Shadowpaw looked up at him with frightened, yellow eyes. He stopped whimpering and swallowed.

"My-My name is Shadowpaw," he mumbled.

"Why did your companions leave DarkClan?!" Thunderstar hissed becoming impatient. Voidstar shuddered, and Lostpath licked his paws.

Shadowpaw looked at Voidstar, and cried out, "Voidstar, help me!" Thunderstar sunk a hairsbreath of his nail into the apprentice's side. He squealed in pain. Thunderstar leaned forward, his large eye level with Shadowpaw's smaller eyes.

"I'm going to ask you again." Thunderstar hissed. "Why did they leave? WHY?!"

Shadowpaw was visibly shaking with fear, but managed to speak. "T-They were banished by my father... by Vulturestar."

Understanding those words, Thunderstar let go, but didn't look back at the young Tom. To believe that his son already had his own kits, was unfathomable.

Voidstar held her breath. She shouldn't have gotten involved with Thunderstar. She thought the eye-less cat was just bluffing when he gave his threat. But now that she'd failed to take DarkClan from Vulturestar, what would he do to her clan.

Shadowpaw's cries filled her stomach with something dreadful and sour. All her bravado, her confidence, had left her. She wondered...*was this how Vulturestar had felt when he had finally gotten what he wanted?* She was sure that their expressions were now the same. The only difference was that she had failed.

His expression was one of frightening calmness, so much that it was unnervingly similar to the expression Vulturestar wore before he killed Patchedfur. He opened his mouth to speak.

"Why...did Vulturestar exile you? What did you and that mangy rogue do that so badly twisted my plans?" He asked, sitting down and waiting for her answer.

"Tell him, Voidstar," Lostpath whispered. Thunderstar's remaining eye twitched in its socket, the only sign of his anger. Voidstar took

a deep breath.

"I led a secret attack on MountainClan without Vulturestar's knowledge," Voidstar said desolately. "I also killed a she cat, and blamed the attack on Vulturestar."

Thunderstar cocked his head to the side. "Anything else I should know?"

"Yes." Voidstar said in a hushed tone. "Her mate was Spiderfang, MountainClan's deputy. It is my belief that MountainClan and DarkClan will go to war now."

Before Voidstar could even look up, she felt something heavy slam across her face. Stars exploded in her corneas, and the she cat hit the dirt. A loud OOF was forced out of her lungs. Her ears rang, and Lostpath yowled.

"Don't you dare hit her!" Lostpath screamed, and pounced at Thunderstar, who easily dodged his attack. Thunderstar slammed the crazed tom to the ground and placed a paw at his throat. The two toms stared each other down.

"I was only disciplining the incapable, scum," Thunderstar said, sticking his claws in Lostpath's throat. The tom winced in pain, and struggled to push Thunderstar off, but was unsuccessful. He was too heavy.

"What I do is none of your business, and you will not get in my way," Thunderstar hissed. "Threaten me again, and I will rip out your insides.. Everything depends if you can keep your act together, and you're not!"

Voidstar could tell he wasn't bluffing. She opened her eyes, and turned to look at Shadowpaw, who was sitting away in terror. He made no sound, but he was wounded on the inside. Then, Voidstar turned her attention to Lostpath and Thunderstar.

"It wasn't my idea!" She replied, calmly. "Not really. Graystar said it was the only way.."

At the mention of Graystar, Thunderstar froze. He got off of

Lostpath, who fell into a coughing fit. Thunderstar looked at Voidstar, amazed.

"Graystar has been teaching you? No wonder.. and this apprentice," He said. She nodded.

"Yes, and many other young ones. The Dark Forest has been growing stronger since the destruction of the old clans, or so he says," Voidstar explained, growing more confident. He didn't kill her, so that must mean that he still needed her. *This isn't too bad.*

Thunderstar nodded. "Makes sense. Alright, I have one final question."

Voidstar thought about standing, but didn't want to push her luck. "Yes, Thunderstar?"

"What can you tell me about Dapplestone? You've been in MountainClan so you must know of her."

What did Thunderstar want with her? But she wanted to please him, so she thought of everything she knew, the whole story.

"Dapplestone was one of the first ten to join MountainClan. I don't know much about her past, except that she came with her son, who you know as Vulturestar. Then she helped patrol the clans while the new cats were trained. I think she became mates with Patchedfur after everyone was trained...," As she mentioned Patchedfur, Thunderstar's expression became one of shock.

"What is it?" Voidstar asked.

Thunderstar composed himself. "Nothing. Please continue," he said sterny.

"Okay. Well, she must've had his kits a few moons ago, and they're still in MountainClan. Vulturestar killed Patchedfur even longer ago than that. Now.. I think she's mates with Redstar. I haven't really been there enough to know, but I saw him when scuttle around when I attacked. He was calling out her name," she finished in a rush. "And Dapplestone's only passion is being a queen, so I'm gonna guess that if she isn't pregnant with his kits yet, she will be."

"Listen.. This is what *VoidClan*, will do. If you do this correctly, I'll let your little clan survive in this dump, understood?" Thunderstar said after many moments of thought. He looked straight into her eyes and she looked back and nodded. "You need to send a spy, or a loyal thing, over to MountainClan. It is vital you know everything of their whereabouts. Then, you will go to Redstar and claim Vulturestar drove you out and that you're allied with Mountainclan now. What I say, VoidClan will do. I will be recruiting more Warriors in the meantime. I will be back on the half-moon.. and do what I say.. it'd be a shame to have to destroy this clan.."

"Ye..yes, *Thunderstar*," she said with a reluctant tone full of hatred.

"And one last thing, Shadowpaw shall be exceptional, so don't ruin him."

The three were left in complete silence as Thunderstar disappeared. Voidstar let out a few shivers before returning to look at the Toms.

"We'll send Puddlepaw... she's pretty worthless, here. And I will set off in a patrol tomorrow, the others will have to stay here at camp. And most of all no one speaks of Thunderstar coming here.."

Just a quick reminder that people thinking of entering, need to do all required. I'm sure none of you are doing it because the only ones reading have already entered, yet I still must mention it. After really dumbing down the entry system, people still don't get it.

What really bugs me, is that people that want to enter, don't even bother reading and voting for the chapters? I mean really, way to make me not want to accept your entry. Considering the time put into every story, people better vote. Or at least say why not in the comments.

But those who are loyal, upstanding and exceptional Warriors, (yeah the usual crowd), are good. Tell me whatcha think, I'm sorry it was somewhat short but it's jam-packed with plot progression!

Chapter 39

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. Leader of Caveclan.

Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes. Deputy of Caveclan.

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Coldstar

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Redstar

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Smoketalon

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Earthpaw- a dark brown furred she cat with lighter stripes and

fierce green eyes. Mentor: Dapplestone

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Flintpaw- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes. Mentor: Spottedpelt

Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 1 moon.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 1 moon.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 1 moon.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 1 moon.

DarkClan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Warriors:

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across

his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Maliceflame.

Twistedpaw- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. Mentor is Vulturestar.

VoidClan-

Leader: Voidstar- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Deputy: Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Apprentices:

Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with brown eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with Amber eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Robb- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Puddlepaw- white and grey furred she cat with icy blue eyes.

Kits:
Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one.

Clanless cats:

Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Expecting Vulturestar's kits.

Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

"What do you think they're talking about?" Silverpaw asked as she watched the leaders make their way into Redstar's den. A new Tom named Darkomen had come to MountainClan today. His pelt was grey and certain features of his also bore darker speckles. He claimed he was sent by LightClan to tell them that the time has come for CaveClan to go home, and that he would join them there.

Many were weary, but Coldstar took the sign gladly. Horsetail and Redstar were greatly troubled by this, seeing that battle could occur anytime between DarkClan and them.

"Some cats are going to leave. Skystar has been wanting to for a moon or so, now.. She said it herself that she doesn't want to have his kits here," Thornpaw sighed resting her head on her paws. Silverpaw also sighed as they waited. It wasn't long before they exited and Redstar took his place on the high-log.

Most of the cats were still in camp, sharing their first meals of the day. Coldstar glanced over at Cinderstorm and beckoned him with the flick of her tail. She then murmured something and he acknowledged it, sadly. Skystar and Shadowmoon seemed more ready to leave then anyone. She then walked over to Feathershade, who was surprised to see her in such a rushed mood.

"Remember what I said, Feathershade. Your welcome in my clan anytime," Skystar said with a smile. Feathershade tried to comprehend her words, until Redstar let out a howl. The cats came out of the dens and looked up at Redstar, not foretelling what the meeting was about.

"Attention. A new Tom had come to the clans. His name is Darkomen and he brings news that CaveClan and MountainClan must separate. This is true, and CaveClan wishes to renew their camp and territory. All I must say, is that any cat that leaves, will always be welcomed back," Redstar announced with a hint of regret. He hated the idea of cats separating, in such a dangerous time. Coldstar however seemed happier then ever, and quite visibly showed that, as she collected her Warriors.

What about my mentor? Silverpaw instantly thought, glancing over to Frostycloud. The she cat was committed to CaveClan, and wouldn't stay if Coldstar left.

"Apprentices and young Warriors, may decide their loyalty and not be judged," Redstar added on seeing the confusion. Silverpaw then noticed Frostycloud make her way toward her.

"I would be delighted to continue to be your mentor, but my place is with CaveClan. I cannot choose for you, but
I hope you choose a new path," she said with a smile and Silverpaw glanced around. Her siblings wouldn't have the same complications, yet she didn't want to stay and live in their shadows forever. Surely, mother will forgive me... She told herself, before agreeing to go with. She gained a burst of confidence as she noticed Palepaw and Shiftclaw, were also preparing to depart for CaveClan.

"Mother.. we're going to go.. to CaveClan," Palepaw announced as the two sisters caught up with Dapplestone. Their mother nodded in a bit of shock, but gave a wide smile.

"Oh, I'm so proud of you! Making your own decisions.. you're already so grown up.. please visit though.. I love you both," Dapplestone gushed, touching noses with both of her daughters. They shrunk back but quietly replied with their goodbyes. Silverpaw caught Shiftclaw chucking at the sight of them and she

instantly became hot with embarrassment.

Meanwhile, Blitzpaw had to say her goodbyes to her mentor and her brothers. She had grown to be great friends with Tinypaw, Riverpaw, Bushpaw and Tallpaw and she didn't want to leave any of them. She had also promised to herself that she would befriend Thornpaw before they were Warriors. The she cat was brittle, but she knew with friendship, she could even warm up. Of course she would miss her brothers, but her place was with MountainClan.

"I'm sorry, Coldstar.. but Earthpaw is going to CaveClan and will need a mentor," Blitzpaw said with Coldstar who shared a bit dismay. But she looked back at her with a smile.

"You'll do great things someday, Blitzpaw. I wish you the best of luck," Coldstar replied before turning to her classmates. "CaveClan, we're setting off. Thank you, Redstar, for your friendship and hospitality."

Coldstar gave a genuine smile before leading her clan, northeast, toward the cave. They had not been back to their camp in moons so what they would find, was unknown.

The trek took until noon, through the forest of massive oaks that covered the sky. Filters of sunlight broke through the canopy, creating an enchanting contrast of shadows where there was no ray of light. Coldstar looked forward to properly marking the news borders which would lead northeast, still touching the lake. MountainClan were not big fish lovers, yet Coldstar found it a unique and opportune choice which should be discovered. The many streams that flowed from the cave and down the lake, would be mostly on their territory.

The scent of rotten flesh wafted past Palepaw's nose. She shared a worried glance with Earthpaw, who bore a curious expression. Surely they buried their Clanmates bodies.. why is it so stinky... Earthpaw assured herself, faintly remembering what Coldstar had told her. When she was still a kit, she confronted the leader who explained how CaveClan was driven from their home. Bushpaw's mother died, Coldstar lost a life, Shymask, a former leader, lost a life, and that's when Nightsky had a miraculous transformation into

Skystar. No one knew why or how Skystar survived, but she had faith LightClan would show her the answers.

Entering the camp, Earthpaw noticed it was surprisingly clean. Besides the tufts of fur scattered and rotting prey, the camp still bore resemblance to a camp. Frostycloud and Coldstar started by dragging the rotten prey out, far away, from the camp. Next they carefully inspected the dens, wary of predators that lurked the Mountains. Frostycloud had detected a fox scent, but it was an old scent. Since then they must've traveled east, away from the cats.

"Shiftclaw, you can lead Fairpaw, Earthpaw, and Silverpaw on a hunting patrol. And Sparrowfeather. Take Flintpaw and Palepaw to collect the herbs you'll need. The rest of us will clean up camp," Cinderstorm proposed hopefully. Everyone nodded in compliantly and set off to their tasks.

Silverpaw shivered in excitement seeing that she'd get to hang out with Shiftclaw. She didn't quite understand what it was, but every time she was around him, she got jitters. All she knew is that he was really silent yet talented.

Once they were far enough out, Silverpaw dropped into a low hunter's crouch. She had remembered practicing this with Thornpaw one day, and wished she would've practiced more. The last thing she wanted to do was make herself look like a fool in front of her new clanmates.

She crawled to the edge of a stream where the water flowed into a separate pool. A tiny water vole sipped the water quietly and Silverpaw knew this was her chance. She slunk to the ground an steadily crawled down until she was level to the pool. She then crawled behind the water vole, and rushed into a pounce. Because she was so close, the water vole plunged into the water, and so did Silverpaw. The tiny prey tried to paddle away but Silverpaw sloppily grabbed the vole in her jaws. She bit down and stood from the pool.

"Wow, Silverpaw!" Earthpaw whispered in excitement, seeing she already had a catch. Earthpaw was still trying to find a distinct scent when she heard the splash. Silverpaw stepped out of the pool

and onto the muddy bank, soaked.

"It's ohhkay," she mumbled through the prey. Earthpaw laughed as she climbed back up. She slipped a little bit gradually made it. They decided to head back to camp, since they lost the rest of their patrol.

When they made it back to camp, Silverpaw was overwhelming surprised with her praise. Frostycloud was very proud stating that she didn't catch her first prey until much later in her apprenticeship. Fairpaw and Flintpaw had both brought back mice and Shiftclaw brought back a squirrel.

"Nice catch, Silverpaw," Shiftclaw remarked with a small smirk. Silverpaw froze in her paw steps as he and Spottedpelt headed to explore the rest of the cave. Palepaw and Earthpaw shared their giggles before coming up beside Silverpaw.

"You like him!" Palepaw taunted with a big grin. Silverpaw shook her head and laughed while Earthpaw was still unconvinced. The girls then also set off to find the apprentice's den.

Meanwhile, in DarkClan, the clan was having a feast. There new clan members were having their official entry into the clan. Both were she cats and already older than 12 moons so there was no need to make them apprentices.

Ivysong, a Siamese with emerald green eyes, had previously come from a smaller Clan which faced famine. She had to make the sacrifice and leave her clan to help them survive. Just a moon later, she found DarkClan with other rogue's help. Along with her, there was Rose. She was a ginger tortoiseshell rogue who didn't like to discuss where she came from. All they knew is that she never wished to talk about her past.

"Ivysong, you will keep your previous Warrior name. Rose, on the other hand, has not made her promises and will do so now. Step forward, Rose," Vulturestar echoed throughout the camp. His Warriors cheered as the she cat stepped forward to receive her name. Rose seemed a bit flustered but the clan didn't mind. "Do you promise to uphold the Warrior code at all cost, and be loyal to

DarkClan with your life?"

"I do," she replied back in a whisper.

"Then by the power of LightClan, you shall be known as Rosejay. LightClan honors your courage and sacrifice.."

"Rosejay! Ivysong! Rosejay! Ivysong!" DarkClan cheered before finally setting down to their meals. Rosejay took her spot besides Ivysong, Nightjet, Earthfoot and Sleetpool. They had all been in the patrol sent to find more rogues and Warriors. Naturally they had all become close.

In fact, most of DarkClan was a tight knit family. Everyone respected each other now and had a place. Sleetpool as deputy had brought a newfound peace which no one could foresaw.

Even though Vulturestar had a hard time showing it, he knew Sleetpool would make the perfect deputy. She had less ambition then Voidstar, by far, and cared for the good of the clan, more than herself. She had not once disobeyed Vulturestar, and only gave intelligent and helpful observations. He hoped with her deputyship, she would bring back his mate, Nightsky.

Lately, revelations about her had erupted. Earthfoot admitted that he witnessed not Softstep, but Lostpath murder Nightsky. The DarkClan Tom claimed he only kept it from him because Lostpath had threatened him many times over. Along with her true killer being revealed, Vulturestar completely disregarded the information when he witnessed her in the flesh, when Voidstar attacked MountainClan.

He had not seen her since, but his patrols had. Spying on MountainClan patrols was the best way to retrieve information, and one day they caught Horsetail doing just that.

"We need more borage leaves! Nightsky will need it!"

"Don't you mean Skystar?" A young she cat had corrected him.

"Whatever.. stupid cats changing their names.. am I supposed to keep track of that too?!" The old Tom had retorted one day, long

ago.

Vulturestar knew she would come by with the kits sooner or later. She wasn't the type of mother to take the kits away with her, wherever she was going. Skystar still held loyalty to him, he somehow knew this in his heart. The only cat he had ever truly loved was Skystar and his parents. But now that his parents were both, lost to him, he only had Skystar.

"Vulturestar.. I'm sorry to disturb you but I had a question," Sleetpool interrupted his thought, and he turned to her. He had been laying in his den, deep in thought.

"Yes.. go ahead," he said, propping himself up on his hunches.

"I was wondering... if we could change the clan name," she explained with a calm voice, a bit wary of his potential response. Vulturestar gave her a confused glare but she quickly rambled off her reasoning.

"During the Warrior ceremony.. there's a part saying.. By the power of LightClan... but why are we DarkClan.. if we honor and pray to LightClan?" Sleetpool asked, still confused at the concept. She wanted DarkClan to not be viewed as evil, but a new and powerful clan, loyal and strong. Vulturestar chuckled at this notion and turned toward her.

"I'm afraid I've confused you.. LightClan is merely a figment of Clan's imaginations. It is something we leaders say to bring hope, strength and connect us to our ancestors... you may ask about my lives.. But they are also merely gifts given to leaders not by LightClan along, but the opposite realm of DarkClan. These two work together to create, good and evil in our world, without the other, they would both cease to exist," Vulturestar explained throughly. He had obtained his logic overtime by mere enlightenment and the stories his father told him as a kit. "What used to be StarClan, is now a less powerful LightClan.. Our ancestors live in either DarkClan or LightClan guiding each of us here.. I took the name, DarkClan, not because we're against LightClan, but because we complete LightClan on this Earth.. does that make sense?"

"I believe so," Sleetpool quietly lied seeing that his concepts were derived from madness. Whatever his beliefs were however, she would leave be.

"And one more thing, before you go..."

"Yes, Vulturestar."

"I'm encouraging DarkClan to, settle down. Just because MountainClan or VoidClan may be a threat, doesn't mean we must always live in fear... Voidstar was contrary to this idea, because kits portray weakness.. but I believe they provide strength in time.. don't you?"

"Yes... Vulturestar," she whispered compliantly before departing at the flick of his tail.

"Oh! And have the patrols keep a look out for Skystar. She's not a foe. That'll be all," he finally finished returning to his nest. Sleetpool huffed and departed for hers in the Warrior's den.

It wasn't direct nor hostile, yet Vulturestar had explained what he wanted of her and the rest of DarkClan. She wasn't quite sure but knew knew it was for the overall benefit of DarkClan. Sleetpool would have to find a mate, soon, or Vulturestar would do it himself.

Yay! Hey everyone, WattyWarriors got out my interview! If you'd like to see it, check out their latest magazine.

In the meantime, let's welcome our newest Warriors! We've got Darkomen, Ivysong, Rosejay, and soon to come, Sootfall, Cloudfire, Stormchaser and Timber!

All entered quite recently and rapidly, so hurray! New friends!

And keep reading because, as you can see there's a whole lot of action in story! 40 chapters in one more! If I could, I'd make a cake for everybody!

Last thing.. I need your opinions on your cat's love life if you

haven't already. Because love is in the air.

Thanks.

Chapter 40

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He

has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Redstar

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Smoketalon

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she kit with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Expecting Redstar's kits.

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 1 moon.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 1 moon.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 1 moon.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 1 moon.

CaveClan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a gray long furred tom with blue eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Flintpaw- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes. Mentor: Spottedpelt

Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Coldstar

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

---

DarkClan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Warriors:

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Maliceflame.

Twistedpaw- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. Mentor is Vulturestar.

VoidClan-

Leader: Voidstar- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Deputy: Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Warriors:
Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Apprentices:
Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with brown eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with Amber eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Robb- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Puddlepaw- white and grey furred she cat with icy blue eyes.

Kits:
Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one.

Nightclan-

Leader: Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Expecting Vulturestar's kits.

Deputy: Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

"Do you understand what you must do, you three?" Voidstar questioned seriously, feeling tense about sending three of her cats out into the other clans. Following what Thunderstar said, she was having them each enter one of the three new clans. Graystar had given Shadowpaw word that MountainClan and CaveClan had separated.

Puddlepaw would be sent to join CaveClan, Robb to DarkClan, and Shadowpaw to MountainClan. To avoid any suspicion, they would train in their dreams with Voidstar. She had been there so often, that she had adapted to that she had control over who came and went now. Graystar had not spoken to Voidstar since then, but she believed the dead Tom would learn to respect the plans to represented.

"Remember, each of you has a different story. Shadowpaw?"

"I was banished from DarkClan after I tried to stop my father from killing you. Because it's against the Warrior code," Shadowpaw replied perfectly, even providing the true expressions. Voidstar was pleased at her apprentices progress.

"Puddlepaw?" Voidstar asked, turning to the young she cat. He looked down in remembrance before popping back up with bright eyes.

"Oh.. yes. Vulturestar and a patrol tried to kill me after crossing their territory. Luckily, I got away with Voidstar's help and she told me to come here..."

"Don't say Voidstar! Say Voidfur, so they don't feel threatened.."

"Yes.. *Voidfur*?" Puddlepaw said awkwardly and the black she cat nodded in approval. Next was Robb, a Tom a little older than herself who was the newest rogue.

"Your job, is the most crucial. Vulturestar is good about sniffing about issues in loyalty.. so, you'll need to immediately plant yourself in that clan.. Get a mate and be prepared to battle

MountainClan or any other clan. And... Foxheart and Hollyfall, are ones to befriend," she explained methodically, worried about the Tom. He still had his name so he'd have some believe immediately but his scent had to be changed quickly. Any trance of Voidstar's scent would certainly get Robb killed. "Alright. The three of you, go. I'll be visiting CaveClan and MountainClan in a day or two, once you've all settled.."

The three first set off to the Twolegplace filled with loads of rotten prey, broken den items, and broken monsters. Robb described it to the younger ones as "trash". He was the first one to submerge himself in it. Then Shadowpaw did, and Puddlepaw next. When their scents reeked of an awful stench, they were sent on their way without further word.

Robb would have the shortest route, but figured a few scratches and a lump would give the appearance of vulnerability. Desperate to please his new leader, he set off down the cliff and into the thick cedar forest which lied between MountainClan and DarkClan's forest. Thistles, and brambles caught onto his fur with ease and thorns have him the scratches he lacked. There was no doubt in his mind that this would work.

After he crossed the forest, a field of large stones lay before him. The stones covered the field for a long way. Robb inspected the open area and noticed three cats coming toward him. He slowed his pace and let his fake limp take effect.

"What are you doing on DarkClan territory?" A Siamese she cat corner as another she cat looked him over warily. The youngest one, an apprentice, had a silver-blue pelt and was also wary.

"I.. I wanted to join the clans.. Are you from a Clan?" He asked the she cats and they exchanged cautious glances. The Siamese nodded while the other white and grey she cat nodded and sat up.

"Are you a rogue?" The white and grey she cat questioned, calmly. When Robb nodded, the she cat turned back to the apprentice.

"Rainpaw, go tell Vulturestar we found another one. If he passes the tests, we'll have another Warrior," she said with a slight smirk while

the other she cat nodded. The Siamese she cat smelled more of rogue than the other she cats.

"Yes, Sleetpool," Rainpaw replied obediently, before darting off across the rocks. Sleetpool looked toward Ivysong and the she cat held a smirk.

"This is Ivysong, and I am Sleetpool, deputy of DarkClan," she explained. He nodded and then followed them back to camp, giving up the limp.

When they did arrive back, the camp wasn't very crowded. In fact, only Rainkit and a large gray tabby Tom sat in the middle. His yellow eyes immediately narrowed in on Robb but he bore no expression.

"What's your name rogue?" The Tom asked firstly. Surprised at the Tom's size, he figured he must be Vulturestar.

"I'm called Robb. I'm from the city.."

"Well Robb, why have you come to DarkClan?" Vulturestar questioned again still carrying a serious expression. Robb glanced at Sleetpool who also had a blank expression. The she cat had already made an impression on him. Perhaps it was something about her manner. "Well.."

"I want to join the Clans. Specifically DarkClan.. I'm tired being hungry," he said honestly. Robb had come to the clans in search of food, and would've joined DarkClan if Voidstar hadn't offered him a position first. It wasn't as glamorous as he imagined but, he didn't have to scavenge for food anymore.

"You've come to the right place. Sleetpool and Ivysong, will oversee your brief apprenticeship. Once you have proven yourself, you will earn your Warrior name and become an official DarkClan member. Welcome to DarkClan, Robb," he said with a smirk. Vulturestar then dismissed himself, and went to join the battle training already in progress. Sleetpool and Ivysong turned to him with a smile.

"I have to finish taking Rainpaw hunting, but I'll see you later,

Robb," Sleetpool said, before bounding out of camp with Rainpaw by her side.

"Don't worry about Vulturestar too much. He's always like that, but he's a really good leader! So, what part of the city are you from? I had to cross through to get here too.."

"The western alley. It was horrible.. this place smells so nice, by the way," Robb commented smelling the fresh lake mist, and smell of fresh kill. Ivysong nodded then began to show him the basics of the camp.

"That's Vulturestar's den, under the sharp rock. We don't bother him. Only Sleetpool really talks any business with him.."

"Do you mind? That he keeps to himself," Robb cornered. He found it strange that he'd keep to himself that much.

"No. As long prey continues to be plentiful and we're protected, I don't mind," Ivysong explained with a bright smile. "Clan life is better than always being alone.. This is the Warrior's den where all warriors sleep. The apprentice's den is just to the left and the nursery is across camp, but we have no queens at the moment. In fact, there aren't really any mates yet.. well Vulturestar had one but we don't talk about her.."

"Why?" Robb interrupted curiously. Ivysong sighed and glanced around making sure no one was back yet. He didn't know why it'd be a big deal.

"Rumors say that she's pregnant with their second litter.. and that she's now leader of her own clan. But again I've never seen or would know if they're actually true.. Foxheart knows everything around here.."

"Thanks Ivysong, do you you think I can rest before this evening?" Robb asked calmly. The she cat nodded quickly then gestured to his pelt.

"Yeah.. you should probably clean yourself too. No offense but the city stinks.."

While Robb focused on cleaning himself off, another cat headed to her new home. Puddlepaw knew she was half-way there when another cat popped out of nowhere.

"Hey! Are you a CaveClan cat?" The black furred Tom shouted. His white paws raced toward her as she stopped in fear of discovery.

"Um.. no. I'm heading there, right now. I want to join them," she replied honestly and the Tom's eyes lit up. Now she could see that he too wasn't that old, even though he was big and muscular for his age.

"Me too! We'll go together!" He proposed and Puddlepaw shrugged with a smile. *He sure is full of energy*... She thought silently as he rambled on about himself. "I'm Ocean. I took that name, well because I've seen the ocean! And it's amazing! A lot of cats haven't seen it but I have and WOW! There's a never ending pool of water there! If I ever have kits, I'm going to name them Wave and Crash, because that's what the ocean does!"

"I think we're here.."

"What's your name? Were you a rogue or a Kittypet before.. or do you not know? I was a Kittypet before my mom died.. but never mind me, how about you?" Ocean enthused with big eyes full of questions. She giggled and shifted, trying to phrase her sentence.

"I'm Puddlepa- I mean Puddle. It's just Puddle. And I was a rogue.. in the city," she said in a rush. She almost said Puddlepaw which would've ruined her entire story.

"That's a cool name, Puddlepa... But in actuality, the shores of the ocean, have puddles.. so we should be friends!"

"Sure, Ocean," she replied with an uneasy smile. He was really nice but his mouth flew faster than a hummingbird's wings. The two were silent until they reach an open area, that led to a stone plateau. Upon it, lay a few cats taking advantage of the covered sun. It seemed as if they were battle training.

"Coldstar! We've got more!" A pale cream she cat announced,

stopping the battle with the other she cat. All the young cats turned to face them and their eyes lit up. They practically barreled over to the new apprentices.

"Yes! Now we'll have a stronger clan!"

"What're your names? Did you come together?"

"I can't wait until DarkClan takes a whiff at our forces!"

"Enough!" A voice echoed behind them, and the apprentice's shrunk back quietly. A large black and white she cat was the source of the voice. Her crimson eyes examined them sharply until she spoke once more. "What is your business here?"

"Coldstar, they're apprentice age.."

"I didn't ask you, Cinderstorm," she snapped staring back at the two. Her clan instantly sunk in excitement and provided composure instead. *What's wrong with this clan?* Ocean wondered, feeling like something was wrong.

"We have come to join CaveClan. We met each other on the way.. I'm Oce..."

"You will prove yourselves in time. You'll start out as apprentices just as the others have. And your names are what?" Coldstar interrupted with a short temper. Ocean glanced at Puddlepaw, the gulped.

"I'm Ocean..."

"And.. I'm Puddle," Puddlepaw said quickly, not wanting to catch the leader's attention or set her off. She instantly knew something was wrong, because Voidstar said nothing of an angry cat such as Coldstar.

"Oceanpaw and Puddlepaw will join the ranks of apprentices. Oceanpaw, your mentor shall be Shiftclaw. Puddlepaw's mentor shall be Darkomen. Everyone get back to work!" Coldstar boomed with an expressionless face and tone. As their leader retired to her den, the apprentices formally greeted their new clanmates.

"I'm Palepaw, and there are Fairkit, Flintkit and Timberpaw. Timberpaw is new just like you guys! And then there's my sister Silverpaw and Earthpaw," Palepaw said pointing at the other apprentices with her tail. Oceanpaw nodded in acknowledgment before Flintpaw started asking about his name.

"What's an ocean?" Flintpaw asked curiously. Oceanpaw's eyes immediately lit up and he began to rave on the wonders of the ocean.

"It's a never ending pool of water! It's so pretty, and there's huge waves of water that crash into the shore... it's amazing," he said with a big smile. Puddlepaw laughed then turned to the other she cat apprentices.

"The boys will be talking about that for a while..."

"I'm really glad to be with you guys.. but Coldstar seems a little.."

"She's never acted like this before. I don't know what it is... but hey, let me show you around camp!"

While the new apprentices accumulated to their new home, Coldstar was not in the mood to celebrate. She was pacing in den furiously as she waited for Sparrowfeather to return. *How could this happen?* She silently wondered, already knowing the answer to her worries.

"Coldstar.. may I come in?" Sparrowfeather asked quietly, and Coldstar nodded. The cream she cat sighed then examined her leader. the moments were excruciating for Coldstar as she dreaded the medicine cat's words. "Coldstar.. you're going to be a mother..."

"When?" She immediately questioned, wondering how long she would have the burden. *I won't do this without you Darktide...*

"A moon, maybe," Sparrowfeather replied quietly, still wary of the she cat's emotions. The last thing she wanted was to upset her. Next, Coldstar dismissed her and crawled to the darkest part of her den, curled up, and sobbed.

As the heavy rains started to come down upon the clans, two she

cats tried to find shelter. It had been a few days since Skystar and Shadowmoon left MountainClan, and they were still searching for the best shelter. They had passed through CaveClan's territory in the east then rounded the lake to where they were southeast. Rain and loud thunder continued to warn they of the danger ahead, but Skystar was given another sign. She felt the kits kick around her savagely and she gulped, knowing she was going into labor.

"Shadowmoon.. the kits are coming," Skystar said closing her eyes as the contractions began. Shadowmoon grunted then led her friend to a hollow tree, covered by brush. It wasn't much but it was enough.

"Uh.. It hurts.. I think something is wrong," she panted squinting her eyes, and nauseous took over. Shadowmoon looked around then back to her.

"What do you want me to do?" Shadowmoon asked trying to stay calm herself. Skystar shook her head then managed to spit the words out.

"Get some prey.. I'm starving and you are. Just go!" Skystar ordered. Shadowmoon did not fight her orders but did what she said and looked for prey. She was surprised at her leader's brashness but didn't fight it, seeing she was in a state of stress.

Skystar continued to go through labor, and cried out in agony several times. The kits were stirring and kicking wildly inside of her and she knew something wad wrong. When she delivered the first kit, a pool of blood surrounded it and it didn't even squirm. It was born dead.

The second kit was the same. But the third kit appeared dead yet, despite her expectations, it started to squeal. She quickly nudged it to her belly and licked it's pelt.

"You'll be Deathkit. As a reminder of your two siblings before you," she said quietly, hoping the clans would not dread his name but see it as a sign of strength. Next a black she cat was delivered and she looked perfectly healthy. After her there were three more toms, each bearing different pelts.

When she knew that was all, she silently looked over the litter of five. She couldn't keep all of them. LightClan had delivered her another prophecy.

"Only the kit with pelt as dark as night, shall remain with you. Three will be taken to their father. And the last will be sent to train in the way of herbs at MountainClan.. do this and they will live to receive their Warrior names. If you fail, they will not make it two moons..."

R.I.P. TWO NAMELESS KITS

Born of Vulturestar and Skystar, your future would've been strong. But as you two did not have medical care, you died a sad, nameless, death.

This is the 40th chapter so hurray. Again we have more participants and the clans are filling quick.

Will Robb, Puddlepaw and Shadowpaw complete their missions? Or will they fall in love with their new clans? Or clan members? Heehee...

What's the fate for the five new children of Vulturestar? (They still need owners, see entry for more details.)

Don't stop reading because there's tons of plot twists, action and romance around the corner!

Chapter 41

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He

has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Redstar

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Smoketalon

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Mentor: Wolfheart

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Expecting Redstar's kits.

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 1 moon.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 1 moon.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 1 moon.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 1 moon.

CaveClan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Flintpaw- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes. Mentor: Spottedpelt

Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Coldstar

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Puddlepaw- white and grey furred she cat with icy blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

---

DarkClan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Warriors:

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes.

Robb- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Maliceflame.

Twistedpaw- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw. Mentor is Vulturestar.

VoidClan-

Leader: Voidstar- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Deputy: Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Warriors:
Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Apprentices:
Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with brown eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with Amber eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Kits:
Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one.

LakeClan-

Leader: Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Kits: Deathkit (Tom), Blackkit (she cat), Tangledkit (Tom), Sharpkit (Tom), and Toadkit (Tom).

Deputy: Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Warriors:
Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Kits:
Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye.

"We're ready... we've been training for several days now... it's time to take revenge on DarkClan... CaveClan attack!"

The cats barreled through the forest and onto the stones. The charge was fierce and untamed. Coldstar led her Warriors with howls of anger and a thirst for revenge. Yet, DarkClan would be underestimated.

Earthfoot, who was strolling along the rocks smelled then shortly heard the CaveClan forces. He rapidly raced back into the camp where he sent warning to his fellow Warriors.

"CaveClan is attacking!" Earthfoot shrieked throughout the camp. Robb, already having nightmares, shot up from his camp and race out to meet the cats.

Coldstar had already pounced onto Earthfoot. She savagely bit through, and tore off his. He screeched out in excruciating pain. She pushed him to the side afterward, then looked toward Vulturestar. The leader had awoken from his sleep at the shrieks. He now observed Coldstar with the utmost surprise. He was sure Voidstar would be the one to attack first.

"CAVECLAN, listen. This is the Tom who killed our fellow Warriors! This is the Tom responsible for the destruction of our clan! And he must pay the price!" She declared with a fury igniting her voice. The cats yowled in agreement and the Warriors jumped down to contribute to the fight.

"I DID NOT KILL DARKTIDE! It was Voidstar and her pet, Lostpath.. Your attacks are meek and you shall never conquer my clan. You will fall, because your strength is fueled by grief. My strength is fueled by pride, for DarkClan.. SO LEAVE NOW! Or pay the price," Vulturestar threatened as he allowed his Warriors time to prepare. Sleetpool and the others silently took their places of defense. The apprentices also prepared at the other emergency exits, ready to attack CaveClan's apprentices. Coldstar's silence was eery as she decided what to do, but Cinderstorm already knew the dreadful answer in her eyes.

"CAVECLAN ATTACK!"

"DARKCLAN ATTACK!"

Twistedpaw and Rainpaw took off up the rocks and collided with the CaveClan apprentices. Rainpaw pounced onto a pale furred she cat with notable bright eyes, while trying to avoid Fairpaw and Flintpaw. Her two former friends, were not to far away.

"SCRAM! Before I have to kill you!" Rainpaw hissed, knowing she could easily give a slash across the throat and end the she cat's days. Palepaw looked and the she cat, and gave a hiss of protest as she kicked her hind legs at her. Rainpaw prepared to bite her when a large thud took her over the rocks and free falling into her camp. She landed with a thud, but luckily the fall wasn't deep enough to be fatal. Rainpaw glared back up and noticed a silver she cat with white patches. Both were notably similar in appearance.

"Stay away from my sister!" Silverpaw shouted before they both charged toward Rainpaw. But, to their surprise, Rainpaw's sister was there to defend.

"Get away from MY sister!" Bubblepaw screamed back, tackling Silverpaw ferociously. The sisters continued to battle as Gempaw

battled Fairpaw, and took no joy from it.

"Please, Gempaw. Don't make me," Fairpaw pleaded, remembering how he admired the she cat very much. They were old friends and neither ever wanted to be in this situation.

"You chose your side. And I've chosen mine," Gempaw replied quietly before charging at him. They collided and Gempaw took the upper paw, but without the will to kill, neither managed to injure each other.

Meanwhile, Twistedpaw had no problem going against a cat he cares for. He easily found Flintpaw in the mass of cats. There were no other apprentices to fight, and his chances of taking down a real Warriors were slim.

Flintpaw was immediately surprised as his brother tackled him boldly. It was almost too easy for Twistedpaw to gain the upper paw, and he skillfully used the precise moved in which Vulturestar taught him. He trained to vitally for battle and was about to prove it to his clan, that he truly belonged. He unsheathed his claws and used his twisted paw to hold Flintpaw down.

"Twistedpaw, NOOOO!" Fairpaw called from a few cat-lengths away.

"For DarkClan," Twistedpaw muttered as he sliced his claws down his brother's throat. The pool of blood grew around Flintpaw, and Fairpaw cried out in fury. Shymask heard her son's cries and twisted her head to see Twistedpaw make the fatal move. In fact, everyone turned to the screams.

Robb, who was fighting with the she cat, took that precise moment to prove himself. Vulturestar and Coldstar were both alarmed. He grabbed the she cat with his front paws and banged her head against the stone wall. The force knocked the she cat out and blood began to trickle from her head. Vulturestar noticed it as Coldstar growled. He was so preoccupied with admiration of his Warriors, that he didn't catch Coldstar take him to the ground. She slammed his head into the stone, quite ferociously, until blood trickled out slowly.

"CAVECLAN IS VICTORIUS," she proclaimed on the large stone that overhung the came. "Let this be a reminder that CaveClan, shall not be reckoned with..."

"Reminder my dung! You're no better than Voidstar," Sleetpool hissed with clenched teeth. Coldstar ignored her and limped out with the rest of her camp. Frostycloud and Cinderstorm had to carry away Shymask's convulsing body as she lost her next life. Robb noticed that he got lucky, striking Shymask, a former leader. He wouldn't have to live with the guilt of killing a cat.

CAVECLAN slowly led out the patrol, taking pride in the work they had done against DarkClan. Vulturestar continued to have tremors and lose his next life in the meantime. The rest of the cat speedily applied cobwebs to their wounds and prayed to LightClan that infection would not occur.

DarkClan didn't have a medicine cat, because Vulturestar did not believe in spiritual effort of a Clan. Sleetpool knew in the future that she would find a medicine cat for the clan. Going days without healing, can be excruciating.

"Are you alright Robb?" Sleetpool whispered as she trotted over to the Tom. She was checking on most people but she was specifically worried about Robb.

"I just.. I didn't know that we'd have so many enemies. I thought being in a clan was going to make things better..."

"They are. This was the first time DarkClan was attacked, and only Vulturestar lost a life. Our Warriors are prepared and next time, we'll send them home as losers," Sleetpool promised as she laid down next to him. Robb wanted to ask her if she'd want to go hurting tomorrow, when Vulturestar woke up.

The large Tom stood and glanced around with a fire in his eyes. Then he picked out Twistedpaw from the corner of the camp. He immediately took steps toward his apprentice, who stood and bowed his head down in reverence.

"Twistedpaw.. Tonight, you killed your own kin for the sake of this

clan. This brilliant display of loyalty is one all cats should strive for," Vulturestar declared sending a small glare toward his three daughters. "He took charge an immediately did what had to be done.. Even, with a twisted paw. Twistedpaw, step forward." The black furred Tom stepped forward in his limp, his head still bowed in accordance.

"Do you promise to uphold the Warrior code and pledge loyalty to DarkClan for all eternity?" Vulturestar asked with a gleam of pride.

"I do," he replied accordingly. His eyes vote a flicker of excitement but he was still composed.

"By the power of LightClan, from this day forward, you will be known as Twistedfoot. We honor you courage and sacrifice..."

"Twistedfoot! Twistedfoot!" The clan cheered accordingly. Even though Rainpaw and Bubblepaw felt like they had let Vulturestar down, they were still happy for Twistedfoot. Especially since he had only been an apprentice for a moon now.

"And, Robb. In the midst of Shymask's distraction, you took the perfect opportunity to prove yourself. You are truly a member of DarkClan now.. Robb, do you promise to uphold the Warrior code and pledge loyalty to DarkClan..."

"I do!" Robb said gleefully, causing the other she cats laughed. He couldn't believe he'd earned Vulturestar's trust.

"By the power of LightClan, from this day forward you shall be known as Fierceclaw. We honor your courage and sacrifice," Vulturestar said with a grin as he examined the Tom closer.

"Fericeclaw!" The clan cheered simultaneously. After they had settled down, Vulturestar went straight to his den. The leader was distressed about the previous battle. *How dare Coldstar attack us?* He hissed silently before crawling into his nest. We'll have to train harder...

Only four cats remained in the camp clearing. Rosejay was helping Earthfoot patch up his ear while Sleetpool was explaining to

Twistedfoot how he would keep a traditional vigil. Ivysong and Nightjet had decided to make sure CaveClan had left for good, then renew the scents.

"Hey Sleetpool," Fierceclaw began, seeing that Sleetpool was no longer preoccupied. The she cat turned to him with a bright smile and he suddenly had a rug of courage. "Would you like to go hunting with me, tomorrow?"

Sleetpool seemed very surprised and flattered. "Of course," she giggled before disappearing into the Warrior's den. Fierceclaw sighed and looked up to the stars with a big grin. *Thank you, LightClan...* He thought silently before heading off to his best himself. Everything was going his way.

It had been so good, that he completely forgot about Voidstar. When he drifted into sleep, he woke in the Dark Forest. He had never experienced it before, but Shadowpaw had warned him of a cat named Graystar, and how he could be rough at times.

"What has happened?" Voidstar questioned as she strutted out of the shadows. Fierceclaw realized where he was and stood a bit drowsy.

"CaveClan attacked, and I got my Warrior name.. it's,"

"Did Vulturestar lose a life?"

"Yes.. but.."

"Have you got a mate yet?" Voidstar interrupted with an annoyed tone. Fierceclaw was a bit taken aback at her manner but replied anyway.

"I believe I will, maybe in time.."

"Hurry up! You've got until the full moon!" Voidstar ordered then suddenly took off into the shadows. Fierceclaw shortly left back into his normal sleep while she continued to pull information from the other spies. Next, she went to Shadowpaw.

"They've accepted me. No one suspects me except Thornpaw and Wolfheart.. but I've been working on being cheerful so, it's got to

pay off," Shadowpaw explained feeling quite confident about his progress at MountainClan. His mentor, who had been attack by DarkClan, was suspicious. But the rest of MountainClan was quite perky and bouncy. They were always eager for new clan members. Another apprentice, Brinepaw, joined the clan recently. He hadn't made any real friends, but he admired Brinepaw for her enthusiasm and and effort.

The only cats he took major dislike to, were the two medicine cats. Horsetail had never spoken to him but was always making strange glares and faces. Then he felt Bushpaw, was just weird. MountainClan seemed accustom to his strange antics.

"Good. Be ready by the full moon. That's when VoidClan will strike.."

"Wait.. There's something else. Skystar left pregnant, they were saying her scent went southeast.."

"Yes! That's brilliant.. Zodiac needs some company anyway. Keep up the good work, Shadowpaw.."

Battle has befallen the clans, and yes we have lost an apprentice...

R.I.P. FLINTPAW

This son of Shymask and Rockdust, had no Wattpad owner. He was passionate about his clan and picked on Twistedfoot from birth. Sadly, karma hurts and Flintpaw paid the ultimate price.

We will remember you, oh Flintpaw.

Chapter 42

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He

has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Redstar

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Smoketalon

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Mentor: Wolfheart

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Expecting Redstar's kits.

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 1 moon.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 1 moon.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 1 moon.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 1 moon.

CaveClan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Flintpaw- a cream Tom with ginger ears and paws. He has gray eyes. Mentor: Spottedpelt

Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Coldstar

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Puddlepaw- white and grey furred she cat with icy blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

---

DarkClan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Warriors:

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Maliceflame.

VoidClan-

Leader: Voidstar- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Deputy: Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Warriors:

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Apprentices:

Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with brown eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with Amber eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Kits:
Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one.

LakeClan-

Leader: Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Kits: Deathkit (Tom), Blackkit (she cat), Tangledkit (Tom), Sharpkit (Tom), and Toadkit (Tom).

Deputy: Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Warriors:
Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Kits:
Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye.

"Hey Brinepaw, did you finally get that move from earlier?" Sunpaw asked with a bright smile. She was new to the clan so naturally, did not have as much experience as others. But, Sunpaw was always there to help others.

"That was easy! Only Tinypaw couldn't get something like that," Shadowpaw snickered, savagely pointing out Tinypaw's difficulty. Sunpaw scowled and trotted away. Why'd Shadowpaw have to act like dung? As soon as Sunpaw left, Shadowpaw did the same, leaving Brinepaw in an awkward position.

"I don't like him, at all," Wolfheart hissed to Flamespirit as they shared tongues. They were off to the side of the camp observing the apprentices as they waited to go out again. She giggled then turned to face him.

"Aren't you exaggerating? It's only been seven or so days.."

"No. I'm not. Once DarkClan.. always DarkClan.. Actually he thinks he's alright because he was banished with Voidstar.. that low ranking piece of fox.."

"Wolfheart!" Spiderfang called out as he overheard the Tom. Wolfheart cringed then lowered his head to his paws, still droopy. The deputy was playing with his kits, which had become his normal pastime. The only other thing Spiderfang loved doing more, was plotting against DarkClan. "In fact, why don't you two take out a large patrol to go scent our eastern borders. It's been awhile.."

"Since yesterday," Flamespirit scoffed before standing. Wolfheart and her peered into the Warrior's den for cats to take. Redstar didn't want the apprentices to go on border patrols when they could be hunting. Perhaps it was the fact that he was going to be a father, that made him more protective. The clan knew Redstar was anxious because Dapplestone had practically been locked away in the nursery.

"Hey Cloudfire! Wanna join us?" Flamespirit asked, picking out the recent MountainClan Warrior. Cloudfire and Stormchaser were both previous Warriors who had been sent by LightClan. Both were eager and loyal to the clan, as expected. Flamespirit quickly made friends with Cloudfire, who was almost as hyper as herself. But overall, she was a good friend.

"Sure! We should take.. some others.. how about Smoketalon or Jaggedclaw," Cloudfire suggested, completely ignorant of Stormchaser who was lying around, unoccupied.

"Sorry, Smoketalon is out with Swiftfawn and their apprentices. But Stormchaser and Jaggedclaw will come, right guys?"

"Totally!" Stormchaser said with a bright grin. Jaggedclaw, also present, stood and agreed with a grin. Although Cloudfire was the most beautiful and available she cat, Jaggedclaw was weary that he may lose to another Tom, so he didn't try hard. Stormchaser, however, tried fiercely to win her affection. And it wasn't only those two toms. Although Smoketalon usually had a calm and quiet demeanor, Cloudfire brought a side out of him, that no one had seen. And Raspyhowl was especially taken, but afraid of rejection, didn't show his affections.

Everyday, was a struggle to organize patrols with four toms wanting to court Cloudfire. Spiderfang feared that sooner or later, someone

would have to make a decision. The deputy was still distressed as his perpetual fear of loss, and couldn't stop seeing Icywind in his daughter, Tearkit. He was almost sure, that he could never settle down again, not unless the clans were at peace.

Once the patrol set out, there was no turning back. They had to conquer a long trek across the marked border while dealing with the flirtatious ambitions.

"Where are you from, Cloudfire?" Jaggedclaw asked curiously. She smiled and peered back at the Tom for a moment.

"Oh.. well I was from SkyClan before this. I was an apprentice. It was a joy to see Dapplestone again," Cloudfire remarked kindly as she gazed ahead. "What about you, Jaggedclaw?"

"My sister and I were also from a clan, but it was destroyed. But we love it here at MountainClan," Jaggedclaw added with a smile.

"Yeah, it's better than my old clan," Flamespirit said with a laugh. Wolfheart wanted to say something, but he remembered how he was a stupid kittypet before this. He didn't want to bring up his old embarrassments, so he focused on the other cats.

"I just left my clan," Stormchaser said but it seemed they had already moved onto another subject. He sighed and followed quietly. *She's never going to notice me over Jaggedclaw...*

"I smell something! Something gross.. it's coming from the west.." Just as Flamespirit said those words, a patrol broke through the trees. Voidstar was at the head, then a white she cat named Moonbliss and a pale, scrawny Tom named Lynch. The two new cats were unrecognized by the MountainClan patrol.

"We need to speak with Redstar," Voidstar demanded immediately but Flamespirit shot forward in a rage. Wolfheart kept her back but, she terribly wanted to rip the she cat's eyes out.

"Get up, flee bag! Your DarkClan scum isn't wanted here!" Flamespirit spat with fiery eyes. Voidstar laughed then turned to Jaggedclaw.

"Let me speak to a *real* Warrior. We're not DarkClan anymore, and we need to see Redstar," Voidstar demanded again. Seeing all the cats were very pensive she took herself there while the patrol tried to catch up. Voidstar entered the camp and gazed around in surprise. "Darn.. looks a lot different.."

"What's she doing here?!" Spiderfang hissed as he stood from playing with his kits. The kits glanced back and forth at each other, then decided to be quiet.

"Business. Redstar! Call your dogs off already," Voidstar yelled through the camp. The large leader stepped out of the nursery and walked straight up to the she cat. Dapplestone followed him, heavily pregnant as expected. "So I was right.. The skunk is pregnant..."

A those words, Dapplestone shot forward in a rage but savagely at the she cat's tail. Voidstar grunted and kicked the she cat in the belly, which caused her to scream out. In a quick motion, Redstar shot forward and bit Voidstar on the neck, and it was only a few seconds.

"Horsetail! Dapplestone are you alright?"

"The kits are coming.. I'll be fine," she grumbled. She was tired of being pregnant, and tired of being a queen. The only thing she could think about, was Vulturestar, and her dead daughter Tulip. She blamed herself for er death and his destruction, and she wanted to do something about it.

"Already? I'll be in there in a moment. You two, explain what Voidstar came here to do," Redstar demanded, more furious than ever. The small black she cat which was there leader was beginning to show the symptoms of losing a life.

"She came to tell you, that we're not DarkClan, we're VoidClan now. They banished Voidstar and Lostpath.. and they found us," Lynch explained a bit weary of what the MountainClan leader would do next.

"Very well. You three can go sit in my den, until she wakes. Then

we'll discuss this," Redstar replied, as Spiderfang took them there. Horsetail and Bushpaw entered the nursery, and so did Redstar.

"I've got this, please stop stuffing the place," Dapplestone huffed as she battled through the pain. Horsetail grunted them looked at where she was hit.

"One of the kits will fair badly because of that, but you're fine," Horsetail said with a nod. It wasn't long before Dapplestone clenched her teeth together and the first kit was delivered. A tortoiseshell Tom was the first born, with a white head but black patches covered his body, and ginger ones covered his legs.

"Should we name him, or do we wait?" Redstar asked with a worried glance. Horsetail gave him the look to shut up and he did. Next a ginger furred Tom, an orange-ginger furred Tom, a dark tortoiseshell she cat with a fluffy tail, a dark ginger tabby Tom with white paws, and a dark red tabby she cat with Amber eyes. And finally a white furred she cat with one ginger paw. Horsetail then checked over the kits to check for injuries that may have occurred.

"We'll name them when their eyes open.. you better go take care of Voidstar, darling," Dapplestone said as he gazed over his sons and daughters. He licked her affectionately between the ears, then took off.

The large red tabby Tom spotted Voidstar and her follows at the base of his den and he scowled. The she cat was just waking up, and had a furious expression. She spotted Redstar and immediately her mouth started running.

"How dare you!"

"How dare you? You barge into MountainClan, attack my mate then expect it's okay? You better say what you want quickly because I want you out of here," Redstar spat with a merciless tone. Her manners and lack of honor brought shame to the name of leaders and Warriors everywhere.

"We're starving," Voidstar lied with a grim expression. "Vulturestar drove us out.. and blamed murders on me.. We need

MountainClan's help to defeat DarkClan."

"What type of help?"

"We destroy DarkClan on the night of the full moon.. Then there's four clans and not five," Voidstar explained with a greedy glint in her eyes. If Redstar accepted, she could get CaveClan and LakeClan, and DarkClan would be demolished in one night. *Thunderstar will see my work and finally show some respect.* She thought ambitiously.

"Possibly. Now get out."

Voidstar didn't waste anytime. Lynch and Moonbliss followed her out. The leader caught a glimpse of Shadowpaw go seemed shocked. She didn't dwell on him and quickly left the midst of the clan. The trek back to camp was long, considering they couldn't go the shortest path and risk DarkClan's patrols reaching them.

"What'd they say?" Lynch asked eagerly. He was tired of doing grubby work around the clan, and wanted eager prey. Sooner or later, he wanted to leave for an actual clan.

"I think they'll help. If not Redstar, Spiderfang will show up... For Vulturestar, or me.."

"That's not good," Moonbliss mentioned but Voidstar scoffed and glanced at her. "I've got 9..8 more lives. And Spiderfang is no match for anyone important.. but perhaps we can use him, where's Zodiac?"

"Back at camp. Don't worry, we've fed her first, just like you said," Moonbliss added on with a sarcastic smile. Voidstar was to preoccupied to notice. Once camp was in site, she jetted toward the dens and quickly searched for the kit.

When she entered the den, it was pitch black and nothing could be seen. Voidstar could still smell Zodiac so she wasn't far. Two crimson slits appeared and the kit stepped into the light.

"You're back," Zodiac cheered with a bright smile. She admired her leader so much, almost like the mother she never had. Voidstar was very busy though, but any happy mood, she shared with Zodiac.

"Yes, and I have a mission for you," Voidstar replied with a smile. She knew the kit had potential powers that had to be used. With encouragement, she could be an asset for VoidClan. "I need you to visit a she cat. A she cat named Icywind. Tell her to go to Spiderfang and remind him of her death..."

"Yes, Voidstar.."

Later that night, Spiderfang finally put his kits to sleep, he went to sleep himself. He awoke immediately in a starry meadow in the midst of night. The beauty was unique and brilliant. The flowers of the meadow seemed to bloom with a thousand stars.

Entrapped by the beauty, he almost missed the presence of cat next to him. When he did sense her presence, he faced the pure white she cat for the first time since her death.

"Icywind... I.. I,"

"I know. Spiderfang, before I leave, promise me one thing. Don't kill Vulturestar, he is innocent. Please forgive yourself, and please... tell our kits that I love them. I must go but I wish I was there... and remember this... The Sun and the Flame will be the future of MountainClan, only they will prove true... black ice and leaf bare will be the future of LakeClan... DarkClan's most loyal warriors will prove to be truly great... and lastly, as long at Thunder lives, there is no future for the clans. The void will cease and all cats will fall to thunder's power. Beware."

Thank you. Please check the comments for a short section notification for those cats that want love...

Chapter 43

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He

has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Redstar

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Smoketalon

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Mentor: Wolfheart

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: 4 toms, 3 she cats.

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 1 moon.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 1 moon.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 1 moon.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 1 moon.

CaveClan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Coldstar

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Puddlepaw- white and grey furred she cat with icy blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

---

DarkClan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail.

Warriors:

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run

along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Earthfoot.

Airpaw- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. Mentor is Nightjet.

Cedarpaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes. Mentor is Foxheart.

Queens:
Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Expecting Oakstripe's kits.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Expecting Foxheart's kits.

VoidClan-

Leader: Voidstar- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Deputy: Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Medicine cat: Bird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:
Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and

neon green eyes.

Apprentices:

Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with brown eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with Amber eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Kits:
Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one.

Leopardkit- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Kits: Deathkit (Tom), Blackkit (she cat), Tangledkit (Tom), Sharpkit (Tom), and Toadkit (Tom).

Deputy: Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Warriors:
Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Kits:
Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye.

"We're training for battle, not how to skip around like bunnies... attack, pin, and destroy," Coldstar demanded as she oversaw the intense training session. It was afternoon and the leader insisted on training the many apprentices after concentrated battle thought.

Silverpaw and Puddlepaw were getting the worst of it. The two she cats weren't that great of fighters, but they could hunt. Timberpaw and Fairpaw were the only ones that Coldstar acknowledged as doing something right. The rest of them, were either to dazed or too talkative.

"But guys, I seriously think learning water battle tactics could help for the future!" Oceanpaw enthused, loosing interest in the training. Earthpaw took the chance and hastily tripped his feet and he fell on his face. The she cat smirked, and Coldstar moved her to fight will Fairpaw, who was exceeding the best. Oceanpaw groaned as he came to his feet once more. No one understood him and never took him seriously. *Some clan...*

"Fairpaw, Palepaw and Earthpaw can go back to camp and rest... the rest of you *will* continue," she demanded before leaving with the other three. Cinderstorm and Shiftclaw shortly came to oversee the rest of the rest of the training. Silverpaw instantly became nervous, training with the newer apprentices who weren't exactly clan-born. *What if Shiftclaw thinks I'm one of them?* Silverpaw worried as she prepared to fight Timberpaw. He seemed preoccupied in his thoughts but became flustered when Cinderstorm told the two, to fight.

Silverpaw was nervous staring at the tall Tom. He was one of the biggest and definitely a moon older than she. She didn't want to lose and make a fool out of herself.

Timberpaw noticed her nervous antics and planned his next moves carefully. He wasn't about to beat the prettiest apprentice in the clan. *She'll totally love me... Nice toms always win...*

"Hey Silverpaw," Timberpaw whispered as Cinderstorm turned his cheek. Shiftclaw then asked him a question and they started discussing an important clan matter. Silverpaw red averted to him and she shown an expression of worry. "I'll throw it, if you want me to..."

"You'd do that for me?" She asked with a hopeful expression. He nodded right before Cinderstorm called them out for not starting already.

Timberpaw slowly stalked around the battle's invisible circle while Silverpaw began too. He took the first move and she barely missed him, as she evaded and rolled under. Timberpaw whipped back and slashed forward with sheathed paws. Silverpaw must've remembered the moves from earlier, because she ducked around the slash then rammed into his left legs, sending him into the dirt. Timberpaw could've held if he had wished, but he was set on pleasing her more than battling other clans.

"Good job Silverpaw! You two, head back to camp, we'll meet you there later," Cinderstorm instructed with a curt nod. Shiftclaw also grinned and sent a congratulatory nod toward Silverpaw. She felt herself grew warm as his eyes fell upon her, then faded. *He's amazing...*

"Good job, Silverpaw. You've got real talent!" Timberpaw commented with a big smile. Silverpaw glanced up and remembered she wasn't alone.

"Oh.. it was nothing. But thanks so much. I don't think I could've won otherwise.."

"Sure you could've! You've just got to focus on more moves for your size. You can't follow Cinderstorm's or Coldstar's example because their huge.. But evading them getting to a cats belly, could end a battle quickly..."

"Wait... could you teach me? I know it's a lot, but you're a really good friend and I'd be too embarrassed to ask my sister..."

"Totally! Yeah, no problem," Timberpaw replied with a bit too much enthusiasm. Silverpaw didn't notice though, and gave him a big smile of relief. *I think I really like this clan...*

Later that night, Redstar visited his new litter in the nursery. Dapplestone seemed exhausted but was delighted when he finally came to visit her. Things were getting boring.

"Their eyes have opened.. so can we name them?" Redstar asked brightly and she nodded with a laugh. Although she usually cared about the naming, she'd done it twice already and wanted to give

her mate a chance.

First, was their first-born, a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. "Ooo, I was thinking since of the colored patches.. we should name him Eaglekit... Because of his white head, orange legs and the black and brown patches over his body..."

"Yeah, that's a strong name," Dapplestone agreed, looking at the young Tom fondly. None of her kits in all her litters except, now, she had two tortoiseshells. Next were the two orange toms. One was bright orange with vibrant violet eyes, and the other was a darker orange with yellow eyes.

"He has to be Firekit," she said pointing to the fiery orange one. He nodded then paid closer attention to the other Tom.

"Rustkit.. that's the other one's name."

"Alright and the dark red tabby.."

"Cherrykit," Redstar replied proudly. She saw a glint of favoritism in his eyes but didn't mind. Their first daughter looked just like Redstar, except she'd be a smaller she cat.

"And the last Tom.. with his bright.. *blue* eyes," Redstar said, looking over Dapplestone's eyes again. "Thats strange, because Thornpaw has blue eyes.. but so does he.."

"My grandfather had blue eyes.. I think he'll be Robinkit. His tabby fur is that color... Because he looks like he's flying with those white legs..."

"What was your grandfather's name?" Redstar asked curiously and Dapplestone remembered easily. The Tom was the leader so it wasn't difficult.

"Graystar.. I think.. Actually no.. he was my great uncle.. I think it was Stormstar? He's my great-grandfather.. my family tree has been a a straight line of leaders.. except for my father. I never knew him.. but my mother was Graystar's half-sister... nevermind," Dapplestone signed as she saw Redstar begin to lose interest. Instead they focused on naming the last two she cats. One was a dark furred

tortoiseshell who had brown fur instead of white. But she had multicolored patches.

"Olivekit.. After my sister," Dapplestone said and Redstar nodded approvingly. Then came the very last kit, and the hardest for Dapplestone to look at. Somehow, she was a pure white she cat. She had Amber eyes, but besides that, every inch of her reminded Dapplestone of her first daughter.

"She looks like.."

"Crimsonpatch.. my mother," Redstar said bluntly examining the kit's one red paw. She mewled and licked her paw, then looked at Dapplestone with wide eyes. The she kit was identical to Tulip, her first daughter, except she bore a dark red paw. "We'll call her Crimsonkit.."

After they finished naming them, Redstar left, leaving them to sleeping. But Dapplestone was not in the right mind for sleeping.

As soon as Dapplestone was certain her new litter was asleep, she quietly rose and left the nursery. The camp was dark, with no moon in the sky. Even the stars were hiding behind thick clouds. Dapplestone was thankful for the darkness; no guard would see her like this.

She crept out of camp and made her way towards Darkclan territory. The way was hard for her, even more so with all the thick undergrowth. She had given birth no more than four days ago, and her insides still ached. Hopefully, the aching would subside. She was still many miles from Darkclan, but as soon as she left Mountainclan territory the trip would become much easier.

Dapplestone, for the millionth time, wondered if Vulturestar still thought and cared for her. She had been praying for it for several days, hoping somehow LightClan would send the message to meet on the border. Her son and her had once been very close. Recently, he didn't seem to show animosity towards her, but she couldn't be sure. Since his leaving her son had not been acting himself. It worried her, but she hoped that their meeting would make things better.

Her heart leapt with joy when she saw Vulturestar hiding under an outcropping near Darkclan camp. His yellow eyes let off no emotion as he noticed her. Dapplestone tried not to let this discourage her. Since the death of Tulip, he had always concealed with his emotions.

"Hello, mother," Vulturestar said cordially, a no emotion his face. Dapplestone smiled at her son and took a seat under the outcrop beside him.

"It is good to see you, Vain," Dapplestone purred. He immediately protested a look of shock. She scoffed, at his formality. "What? That is your name, like it or not. No leader names my son after a bird..."

If Vulturestar was offended, he concealed it. He replaced his surprise with his usual nonchalant mask. "I'm not upset. Just surprised that you were serious. I can't help but wonder why we're meeting here..." His eye flickered around their surroundings. Their location was well-hidden and secluded; not the most innocent place to meet casually. Dapplestone acknowledged his statement with a laugh.

"Must we be so formal?" She said with a warm smile. "You're my son, for Lightclan's sakes! I just wanted to see you..to talk to you!"

"You could've come to Darkclan at anytime," Vulturestar said coldly. "But no. You were fat with bastardly kits..."

Dapplestone cringed. "Stop! That does not mean I love you any less... Do you remember what your father used to tell you?"

Vulturestar stiffened at the mention of his father, Thunderstar, but was well aware of the answer his mother wanted. "Blood before Clan...every day the same meaningless verse.. We'll all the cats tha are my blood, have left me! Tulip, Father, Softstep, you, Nightsky, Shadowpaw... Everyone leaves..."

Dapplestone nodded, her green eyes narrowed. "If he said it to you that much, how often do you think Thunderstar said it to me? If you remember those words... you'll always have the answer..."

"You shouldn't lie, Mother. It doesn't suit you. I know who your true family is now..."

Dapplestone looked downtrodden. She lowered her head, and immediately Vulturestar felt guilty. His mother had come to him, and he had been nothing but cruel.

"I'm sorry..why did you want to meet me, Mother?" His mother looked him in the eye, green to yellow, her face set in determination.

"I will not see you in the battlefield, Vain. I refuse to see you die at the hands of Mountainclan... They're coming, everyone, on the full moon."

Vulturestar shook his head angrily. "Then don't. Stay in camp, or fake an illness. I could care less. You know and I now know that the Clans won't stop... And DarkClan won't parish..." He came closer to Dapplestone, so that the only thing she saw was his eyes, glimmering with hate.

"I will crush CaveClan, and murder Voidstar. If MountainClan gets in the way too, you'll know what I'll have to do. My clan comes first... they're my blood now."

And with that, he left Dapplestone alone. As he disappeared into the darkness, he left one remark that stung worse than any claw or tooth.

"Maybe you'll finally be a good widow, after this is all over."

That same night, Voidstar and Lostpath sat in Voidclan camp, calm and confident. Zodiac had done her part beautifully, as Shadowpaw had clearly iterated. She was rewarded with a new playmate, Leopardkit. They had taken the young she cat in from the dumps, in the hopes of grooming her for clan life. Along with Leopardkit, Bird had joined.

The unique she cat was blind, but promised that she could heal VoidClan cats. She proved to be valuable when Cindy got a rat bite. Bird instantly picked out a herb, chewed, then applied it to the

Cindy's bite. She was better within days and Bird was immediately accepted into the clan. Although she was confident in her warriors, she didn't want to reward them with their names and get them cocky. They needed to be prepared.

"The moon is up.. where are they?" Lostpath asked impatiently. Voidstar shrugged and turned back to the mouse she was eating. Thunderstar was sending a spy from Mountainclan who was coming to meet them. Voidstar was eager to meet the spy, but was anxious as to who it was. Shadowpaw had confirmed it wouldn't be him, so she had no idea who it could be. Mountainclan was an extremely loyal bunch, and nobody should could think of seemed to be spy material. Thornpaw, maybe, she had trained in the Dark Forest with Voidstar, but there were others.

"I'll bet it's Thornpaw.. it has to be," Lostpath replied. He seemed a little nervous. Ever since Thunderstar had met them last, he feared the one-eyed tom. He didn't want this spy to be anything like Thunderstar.

Voidstar snorted. "Shadowpaw told me about this stupid apprentice..Bushpaw? I think. Who names their kit, Bush" Thornpaw is more likely, but try not to jump to conclusions. Those loyal clan cats have more than a few bad eggs."

"Listen, I wanted to discuss something... you see, when we left DarkClan... I just thought that, that we..."

"Don't be ridiculous, Lostpath... I'm a leader, and you're a follower... I'm the master and you're the servant. That is how it is, and that is how it will always be. Understand?" Voidstar said sternly.

"Yes, Voidstar," Lostpath swallowed, trying to keep himself composed. It was beyond him, how in a few words, his whole previous thinking had come crashing down. His loyalty shattered, and his heart dropped. He had sacrificed everything for her, and he received nothing in that pledge.

"It's over Voidstar..."

"What're you.." Before she could finish, he bit her near the neck,

then pushed her off the cliff in her struggle. Her screams were the last thing he heard as she plummeted into the rocks below. She would lose one life, then wake up shortly. And Lostpath couldn't waste anytime. As he turned and prepared to leave a rustling of leaves caught his attention. A lone cat stepped out from the stinking brush. He hissed in shock. "NO! It's you?"

"We've got little time. So here's the main message. VoidClan needs to attack, MountainClan.. tomorrow.."

"Tell Thunderstar.. there's another change of plans. I pledge no loyalty to that... Heartless badger, anymore... I'll do whatever he wants me to... but nothing with her."

"Good... that'll go perfectly... in the meantime, go to LakeClan. He will keep in touch... now leave, before she wakes up."

Heya!
No big announcements other than a few she cats are pregnant. And we've got lots of characters needing owners. It costs you nothing to take one of those, form their personalities, and etc...

Kits, that are brand spankin new!

One clan won't make it out of this... after some major battles and decisions are made... your cat may need to pick another home...

Gatherings will come soon. Old traditions will be renewed.

Leaders tell me your specific Clan laws via private messages. Leaders are picking the breeding laws of their clan. (Who they can mate with and not... So one clan may have medicine cats with mates and another may not.)

Either way, apprentices and rouges must pledge allegiance to one clan before they're given their name. They choose their allegiance from now on. Not their parents.

And welcome LakeClan! Led by Skystar! It's growing bigger...

Chapter 44

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He

has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Redstar

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Smoketalon

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Mentor: Wolfheart

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Eaglekit (Tom), Cherrykit (she cat), Rustkit (Tom), Firekit (Tom), Robinkit (Tom), Olivekit (she cat), and Crimsonkit (she cat).

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 1 moon.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 1 moon.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 1 moon.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 1 moon.

CaveClan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Coldstar

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Puddlepaw- white and grey furred she cat with icy blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

---

DarkClan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Expecting Fierceclaw's kits.

Warriors:

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run

along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Earthfoot.

Airpaw- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. Mentor is Nightjet.

Cedarpaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes. Mentor is Foxheart.

Queens:
Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Expecting Oakstripe's kits.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Expecting Foxheart's kits.

VoidClan-

Leader: Voidstar- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Deputy: Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Medicine cat: Bird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Apprentices:

Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with brown eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with Amber eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Kits:
Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one.

Leopardkit- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes. Kits: Deathkit (Tom), Blackkit (she cat), Tangledkit (Tom), Sharpkit (Tom), and Toadkit (Tom).

Deputy: Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:
Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Kits:
Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye.

It stormed, and stormed and stormed the next few days. Cats in CaveClan easily took shelter in their Cave of a camp. MountainClan crawled into the dens, while others suffered through the rainy patrols, and DarkClan hid under their overhanging rocks. LakeClan, however, had little trees on their marshy land.

Several streams covered the territory, making it impossible to hunt in times of severe rain. Flooding was too much of a problem, even for Shadowmoon who had became a skilled swimmer. They found some shelter by caking together brush piles of driftwood with mud.

"Mommy, can I go and play with Winterkit?" Blackkit asked with a hopeful glance. Skystar turned her face from the storm outside, and faced her daughter.

"Maybe in a little bit. Her father and her are probably still sleeping.."

"I don't know how! All those things keep making noise outside!" Toadkit called out, with a pouty expression. He slugged his hunches and tail. They had only been out once, but it was a few days ago.

"That's rain," Deathkit corrected. Toadkit profusely shook his head and Skystar tilted her head.

"No! It's the other sound... the croaks!"

"They're frogs and toads, what you're named after," Skystar explained with a loving gleam. Toadkit giggled then started to play with Sharpkit and Tangledkit. Skystar sighed then turned her head to see Sweetbreeze trotted across camp.

The new medicine cat was hard at work. She had been taught in the medicine cat ways, and was now teaching them to LakeClan. She brought Skystar hope that they could be spiritually connected with LightClan.

"I'm going to go see Sweetbreeze. Don't go outside.. alright?" Skystar said with a testing tone. Her kits nodded and replied, yes, simultaneously. She then trotted quickly to her den, ignoring the drops of water that pelted her. "Good morning, Sweetbreeze."

"Morning. I collected some Borage leaves, and Horsetail why I was out.. and, I was wondering, is there somewhere spiritual to connect with LightClan?" Sweetbreeze asked curiously and Skystar had to think about it. She had no prior experience with clans and barely knew the traditions. Luckily, LightClan was teaching her as DarkClan was teaching Voidstar. In time, she hoped to have formal gatherings with the other clans.

"I do not know. Not every Clan has a medicine cat, but hopefully LightClan will reveal more to us," Skystar explained. The light colored calico nodded then continued sorting herbs. "I'm going to see what the Warriors are doing..."

"I'm going to go out again. I'll try to catch something too," Sweetbreeze said before also exiting the den. Skystar quickly made it over to the Warrior's den where three cats lay inside. One, was Shadowmoon, her loyal deputy. The other two were recent additions. Rockfall, a muscular wildcat Tom, and his daughter Winterkit. Rockfall's mate had died when they crossed a Thunderpath getting here. It was sad, but Skystar was happy to have the two.

"Shadowmoon, can you and Rockfall go on a hunting patrol? I think the flood will bring out the fish.."

"Are you sure you'll be fine by yourself?" Shadowmoon asked as she and Rockfall stood. Green leaf was almost upon the clan, and the abundant prey made feeding the three LakeClan warriors quicker and easier. Unfortunately it also began to rain practically every day, which washed off most of the new territory scents that they had laid.

Skystar, who had been cooped up in her den for a week, had grown tired of Shadowmoon's worry. Though, she could understand it. Nobody had set foot on their new clan territory, yet. And Skystar was confident she would be perfectly safe on her own.

"I'll be fine, Shadowmoon," Skystar yawned, then smiled. "Go hunting, please."

Shadowmoon nodded, a bit nervous, and left the camp with

Rockfall, leaving the area empty and deserted looking. Skystar settled into her nest with her kits, who were now fast asleep. Blackkit was the only kit still awake. The small she kit sniffed around, meowing weakly. She couldn't help but worry about them, and the prophecy. She hadn't quite deciphered how or why they would have to leave, but she would keep Blackkit.

Outside then den, the pelting rain turned into lighter drizzling that began to fall, making puddles in the soft, marshy dirt. Skystar sighed. She loved the rain, but only when she was safe inside. It took forever to dry her fur with her tongue. She remembered when it had rained in MountainClan, a week before she left. All the kits had been playing, delighted by the new phenomenon. She mostly remembered Bushkit's fluffy fur had been completely drenched, and unable to dry for hours. He had looked like a drowned rodent, and Tallkit had looked even thinner than usual. Both friends had gotten colds, of course.

She missed MountainClan sometimes, with its safety, abundant prey, and how close the cats were to each other. It had been like a big family, but Skystar had felt like an outsider. She had heard other cats whisper things about her, about her life before LightClan had given her the prophecy. She wanted her own family, her own clan.

She had been Vulturestar's mate. They had a litter a litter other than the kits beside her. Skystar couldn't help but wonder if she had been happier with DarkClan, if Vulturestar hadn't done horrible things.

The Lake would be flooded after all the rains, she thought. I should teach the kits how to swim. But to do that, the kits would have to get much bigger, and train later.

A wet wind blew into the den, sending scents in at her. She breathed them in, but found some to be different. *I smell meadow flowers..did the wind come from DarkClan? But there is a slight pine scent too..a MountainClan scent. And trash. I definitely smell trash*. The only scent missing was the CaveClan scent: the mustiness of the cave and the damp, sweet smell of streams.

Before she could get up to investigate, a large, muscular tom with a

tabby pelt stepped into the camp. From afar, she knew it was Vulturestar, until he got closer. He looked horrible, all covered in round scars in his side, and only one scarred, yellow eye. The other eye did not exist sending chills into her spine. His pelt was spiky, but kept. Skystar had no idea who this was, nor the many cats behind him, but she recognized one cat the quickly came in after him.

"W-What! Who are you?!" Skystar snapped, her hair rising. The tom smirked cruelly, and gave her a mock bow.

"I am Thunderstar," Thunderstar said in a low growl, "Where are the kits?" Lostpath grinned behind him, but didn't dare utter a word.

Skystar always thought that Lostpath was a little unhinged, but now the scruffy tom looked completely deranged. His tail quivered, and his legs shook with a nervous energy. His pupils were like tiny little pinpricks in a sea of crazy.

"What do you mean? There are no kits here," Skystar tried to lie. Maybe she could stall them until Shadowmoon and Rockfall came back. But many cats appeared behind them, and three Warriors couldn't hold off five. She knew that she would just have to get Lostpath to start talking.

"We know you have kits, Skystar. We need them for Thunderstar's clan," Lostpath began until the leader interrupted him. Thunderstar snarled, and smacked Lostpath across the muzzle with one of his paws. The crazy tom crouched down, and kept his eyes on the ground, defeated.

"Did I say you could speak, idiot?" Thunderstar snapped, and turned back to Skystar, who had stood and covered the entrance of the den with her body.

"I'm here for my kin."

Skystar stiffened. "What are you talking about? These kits are mine. I'm their mother."

Thunderstar studied her coldly, his scarred muzzle twitched. He

seemed less hostile yet replied anyway. "Those kits are my sons, and my blood. I'm not leaving here without them."

"You're Vulturestar's father!" Skystar gasped. "Dapplestone.. said you died."

Thunderstar nodded. "That is right. I did die. Humans shot me with stone, and one destroyed my eye.. I tried to protect my daughter. When I woke up, SkyClan's camp was full of corpses." His expression was bitter. "My daughter was dead, and I could only guess what they had done to my son. Those Twolegs kidnapped my sister and her kits as well, and I could do nothing to stop them... Well I did some retribution... but that's not what matters..."

Skystar shivered. "How did you survive?"

Thunderstar composed himself. "It doesn't matter. My son still lives, and now I want my grandchildren." Behind her, the kits started to meow. Skystar prayed to LightClan that Rockfall and Shadowmoon would hurry.

"Your warriors won't be returning anytime soon. My own rogues will make sure to keep them...distracted." Thunderstar turned to Lostpath. "Go fetch Giselle, Tigerstorm, and Dovepool... they'll be gentle with the kits."

"No! You can't take them!" Skystar whimpered. She only had these left, she left Rainpaw, Bubblepaw, Herbpaw and Shadowpaw. She couldn't make the same mistake.

Almost lazily, Thunderstar was prepared to act but gave her one last ultimatum. "You either join us, and bring the kits with you. Or you give up the kits.."

"No.. I can't leave LakeClan.. don't take Blackkit and Toadkit.. please."

Thunderstar sat back and ordered Giselle, who turned out to be a bluish silver she cat with blue eyes, to inspect them. She entered the den and looked at each of the kits carefully.

"It's fine, Thunderstar. Those two are too small anyway," she said of

Blackkit and Toadkit. "The others are perfect."

"Very well, take them."

Skystar sat back, trying to compose herself as they took Sharpkit, Tangledkit, and Deathkit away forever. Before Thunderstar left the camp however, she heard him say, "I hope to see LakeClan at the battle. It would do no good for anyone to miss it..."

Meanwhile, at DarkClan, Vulturestar and his clan were unaware of the growing threat. In fact, they were happy to finally have other threats off their minds. Three she cats were expecting, and DarkClan's spirits were bumbling with a possible future for the clan.

"Vulturestar, can I come in?" Sleetpool asked from outside of his den. He beckoned her approval and then turned to her attention.

"How are borders? I'm afraid I haven't been out in a few days.."

"They're well. No sign of CaveClan or VoidClan. However there was a brief MountainClan scent near the border. But we remarked it, stronger, as a warning," Sleetpool began, explaining the current patrols which she was mostly in charge of. "And, I wanted to ask if you're alright? You seem a little..."

"I'm alright, Sleetpool. Thank you for your consideration. Unfortunately, I haven't been getting any sleep. Anyway, how are you?"

"Very well. Actually, I'm expecting kits."

"That's great! Whose the lucky Tom?"

"Fierceclaw. Thank you for accepting him into DarkClan so quickly. I know it's hard to place trust in new cats," Sleetpool said with a smile. Because of her leader's generosity, Fierceclaw and her would have long lives in DarkClan.

"It is, at times. But I had a good feeling about him. He's a good Tom... Ans do you think I could go hunting with Rainpaw and Gempaw today, I wanted to monitor their progress.."

"Yes, I can arrange that. And what about Bubblepaw?"

"What about her? Her focus is terrible in battling and her hunting is sloppy. If she doesn't focus, Airpaw and Cedarpaw will pass her up.."

"Yes... I suppose. I better get to it then," Sleetpool said before letting herself out. She then directed the patrols for the day. "Poisonberry, Earthfoot and Maliceflame. You three can go hunting, near LakeClan territory... Nightjet, Oakstripe and Foxheart will take their apprentices battle training. And Vulturestar is taking Rainpaw and Gempaw, hunting north of camp. Everyone else is in camp duty..."

Airpaw and Cedarpaw bounced up, then trotted out for battle training. The two were fairly new, so hadn't gotten the worst of it yet. Bubblepaw stared on as Vulturestar, her father, went out with her sister and half-sister. Both were beautiful, and practically Warriors already, but she was once again left behind. Things had been better when her brother, Shadowpaw, was still in DarkClan.

At least then, it was them against the world. Now, Bubblepaw was alone. Cedarpaw was friendly, but a bit too bouncy and cheery for Bubblepaw. Airpaw seemed okay, but she wasn't really sure of him yet. Then Gempaw and Twistedfoot were so close, and Rainpaw was too. They were the golden children, and Bubblepaw was not.

Ironically, Gempaw was feeling the opposite. She was now joined her "father" on a hunting patrol. Vulturestar treated her like she was truly his own, and that their relationship was strong. In truth, it couldn't be worse. Her father had killed her mother, Softstep, and her true brother Bushpaw, was sent away because of him. Her brother looked so much like Vulturestar, that being with Gempaw would get them both taken away. Instead, her brother enjoyed freedom and the true Warrior life, while Gempaw felt as him she were wading through fire.

She hated Vulturestar. She hated him more than she had ever hated. She was so sure, that she didn't think she could ever hate anyone else, because all of her hate was being thrown at her father. She hid the truth though.

Often saying, "yes Vulturestar," made a cat instantly favored. He hated any rebellion, dispute, or any attitude that threatened his rule.

She had never discussed her feelings with many. But Twistedfoot was nice to talk to. Both were not DarkClan blood, and both were former CaveClan cats. When they were kits, they rumored of leaving and running far far away from DarkClan. They had promises to each other, and hopes. But it all changed when he earned his Warrior name.

In a single night, he had changed to Vulturestar's minion. Of course, that was his mentor, but he had never acted like it before. While she had spared Fairpaw, Twistedfoot's brother, he killed his other brother, Flintpaw. And it seemed as if he intended to keep it. She wanted to speak to him, terribly, but he wasn't an apprentice anymore, and had more work to do.

Instead, she stalked a rabbit, over the rocks until it came to a stop. Using the stone foliage as camouflage, she slunk closer, than spared no more time. She soared forward and chased down the rabbit until she caught its hind legs and dug her claws into its flesh. Instant pride filled her, as she took her prey and trotted home. Vulturestar was watching Rainpaw catch a fish, so she easily slunk by.

"Twistedfoot, there you are.. I've been wanting to talk to you," Gempaw began when the Tom stood.

"No, Gempaw. I can't talk to you anymore.."

"What? Is this because you think you're better than me? Because you are, you can have that... but why are you being like this?" Gempaw asked, still confused as his evasiveness. Twistedpaw looked away then suddenly snapped back.

"No. It's because you're weak. It's because you didn't kill Fairpaw why you had the chance! I did my part so we could get here. You didn't do yours... Because you like him? Don't you?" Twistedfoot confronted with a cold glare. Both Fairpaw and Twistedfoot were handsome toms, but Twistedfoot was we friend. So was Fairpaw. Gempaw was prepared to respond when he cut her off to soon.

"Nevermind. I forgot. No one can love someone with twisted foot.."

"What! Come back!" Gempaw yelled, as he left camp, leaving her so confused. *What have I done?* All she ever wanted was a family. She had a friend. And now, she had none.

"Gempaw, why did you leave? We thought you went over the borders..."

"JUST SHUT UP!" She yelled straight into Vulturestar's face. "You don't care about me! You don't care about this.. STUPIDCLAN! And you didn't care about my mother!"

A hard blunt paw hit her straight across the face. But it wasn't Vulturestar, it was Twistedfoot.

"Don't talk to our leader that way.. scum.."

"Enough," Vulturestar tried to say but was once again cut off.

"You know what Twistedfoot, you're full of fox-dung! You've whined about your foot ever since I've met you! Well guess what, you can live with it! So stop being such a complete imbecile! And you... Vulturestar, do whatever you want? Because I don't flipping give a fox's dung! I have nothing!"

The silence over camp was brutal, and the cats that had lived to hear the fight, would never cease to remember it. Vulturestar stepped to where he glared over his daughter with narrowed eyes.

"The truth is Gempaw... that you're just like me..."

Chapter 45

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He

has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Redstar

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Smoketalon

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Mentor: Wolfheart

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Eaglekit (Tom), Cherrykit (she cat), Rustkit (Tom), Firekit (Tom), Robinkit (Tom), Olivekit (she cat), and Crimsonkit (she cat).

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 1 moon.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 1 moon.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 1 moon.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 1 moon.

CaveClan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. Expecting Darktide's kits.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Coldstar

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Puddlepaw- white and grey furred she cat with icy blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

---

DarkClan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Expecting Fierceclaw's kits.

Warriors:

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run

along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Earthfoot.

Airpaw- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. Mentor is Nightjet.

Cedarpaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes. Mentor is Foxheart.

Queens:
Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Expecting Oakstripe's kits.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Expecting Foxheart's kits.

VoidClan-

Leader: Voidstar- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Deputy: Undetermined.

Medicine cat: Bird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and

neon green eyes.

Apprentices:

Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with brown eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with Amber eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Kits:
Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one.

Leopardkit- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Deputy: Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:
Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Kits:
Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 2 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 1 moon.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 1 moon.

Unknown forces:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur was spiky, yet kept. 49 moons.

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. 35 moons.

Warriors:
Alexander- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. 29 moons.

Giselle- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. 21 moons.

Dragon- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. 12 moons.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Kits:
Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 1 moon.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 1 moon.

"Everything is falling into place, Sprucestrike... Alexander and Giselle are willing for the next step, and soon you will have your revenge, my apprentice..."

When Thunderstar's clan was destroyed, he had no choice but to

scavenge the dirt of the land for any cats willing. First, he found Sprucestrike, a Tom who was a former clan cat. However, unlike Thunderstar, he was exiled by his own leader, Shystar. Ever since, he followed Thunderstar and vowed to be loyal and devote, as long as he could take his revenge upon the she cat who banished him.

The pair had made a remarkable team, and collected former clan cats across the vast land. All of the cats he lead, were Clan blood, and if he could, he'd keep it that way. Sprucestrike had found most, while Thunderstar investigated the collection of new clans.

Thunderstar treasured Sprucestrike like blood, but not quite. The Tom was completely loyal, obedient, and skilled. Being handsome, he could easily catch a she cat and provide offspring as soon as Thunderstar willed. Yet, his suspicious, want of revenge, was fascination and mysterious. He couldn't take any chances. He did not understand why he would want Shymask to die without any use. Thunderstar assumed overtime that, it was a personal affair that destroyed his emotional state. *If she is to die, she is to have a use...* He swore to himself. Perhaps the she cat could provide his forces kits, or intelligence, but he had no plans of killing her, immediately.

"Thank you, Thunderstar. How shall we take VoidClan, once we get there?" Sprucestrike asked, so that he could inform the other Warriors.

"By force. Don't kill any of the kits, immediately. I'll trap Voidstar and attempt to bargain with her... The Warriors should come willingly.. if not, throw them off the cliff... and, she needs to call back her spies, for the night. She sent three, we need them to be prepared to, do what is necessary," Thunderstar said with a gleam in his eyes. Shadowpaw, his grandson, was among them and showed promise. If he could pass this test, he'd raise the ranks of Thunderstar's new clan.

"And DarkClan.."

"We have to get past DarkClan territory before the patrols smell us... or it's over. We'll make our introductions soon enough," Thunderstar explained to his cats, and they silently nodded. "Lostpath, drop off

the kits with a patrol. Say what I told you to."

Lostpath nodded then set off with Alexander and Giselle. Each of the Warriors were carrying a kit. Lostpath had never carried a kit before so he tried to be as gentle as possible, or he'd get the claw.

Acting as a distraction, the three cats trotted into DarkClan territory. The moon was almost full, and it would be full in only a few days. The light illuminated the open territory. Short green grass was all that grew, providing no cover for attacking forces. All that broke the meadow, were juts of rocks, caverns, and crevices of the past.

They only made it half way across the open area, before being spotted. Four cats suddenly appeared and came to match them. The three feared no battle for the kits would surely change their mind from battle.

Sleetpool, Fierceclaw, Maliceflame and Ivysong were part of the patrol. Lostpath did not recognize Ivysong and was hoping, that was a sign of hope. *Perhaps she'll have mercy*... Sleetpool and Maliceflame, however, knew Lostpath growled at the sight of him. They still held a grudge for what Voidstar and him had done to DarkClan.

"Please, hear me out. Take me to Vulturestar and let me explain myself..."

"You're scum! Your dung-hearted dog killed my daughter! Why should we give you a second chance?" Maliceflame hissed remembering how Voidstar had brutally murdered her daughter, for her own political ambition. Lostpath had always been her power until then. She had made it clear there was nothing more, although he wished terribly that she was the she cat he thought she was. He regretted his actions, terribly.

"Because... we have his kits.."

At those words, Sleetpool's expression turned soft. She flicked her tail for them to follow and Ivysong trotted ahead to warn the clan, while Maliceflame and Fierceclaw held the back. Tension simmered

in the atmosphere. Lostpath could feel chills run along his spine.

"What're you doing here?" Vulturestar demanded, as they took to the center of the camp. Lostpath quickly set down Tangledkit, who scrambled to Giselle. Deathkit and Sharpkit also huddled together near the warm, comforting she cat, who surprisingly resembles their real mother. They hadn't been with her for long, but she was the only cat that portrayed safety and home of LakeClan.

"We need to make a deal..."

"You have my kits at your claws, this is against all codes of honor and morality..."

"What! You said mother died!" Bubblepaw spat, surging toward the front of the cats present. Her bright blue eyes were narrowed in fury and Vulturestar didn't try to match her glare.

"That's impossible... they're too young," Rainpaw said as she stepped forward. He had avoided, neglected, and exiled his first litter, and one was dead. Rainpaw was the only one left he had any care for. She resembled her mother the most, while Bubblepaw was a bit too eager at times. They were fully dysfunctional family yet Vulturestar didn't want to waste anytime on them.

"She's not dead. There, happy girls? In fact she's leading LakeClan... Meet your brothers," he grumbled impatiently before stalking toward Lostpath. Rainpaw sat in shock and disappointment toward her father. Bubblepaw simply spat and stalked off to the apprentice den.

Alexander quietly slipped in front of Giselle, protectively, as the large Tom came near. At this, Vulturestar inspected them silently then turned his glare to Lostpath. "Speak, fool."

"I killed Voidstar. *She* has seven lives left. I thought you'd like to know that I pledge no allegiance to *her*, anymore. And *her* Clan will follow me, at the price of our pardons. And we'll pledge allegiance to DarkClan, of course... Oh, and you also will have three of your finest kits, as a sign of our gratitude..."

Silence befell among the clan. *That's a great deal...* Sleetpool thought silently, trying to speak to Vulturestar with her eyes. DarkClan would earn however many warriors VoidClan had conjured up in the past moons. Not to mention, the major chances of getting Voidstar's quick death.

"What about Skystar? What'd you do to her?" Vulturestar asked, before he said anymore. Lostpath chuckled then looked at him with a smirk.

"We asked her if she'd come. But she refused and stayed with the remaining kits of the litter.. She's perfectly fine, back in LakeClan territory."

"Fine. Deal. But if so as hurt a true DarkClan member... you know where you'll be returning..."

"Yes, Vulturestar. Now, this is Alexander and his mate, Giselle. She lost her kits while coming to the territory, but she can nurse your kits in the meantime."

"Very well. However, Lostpath, you're in Voidstar's old den which is currently empty. Alexander and Giselle will earn their warrior names in time," Vulturestar said before walking up to the kits. Alexander and Giselle sat back respectively, as Giselle shared a few words with Sleetpool.

"We asked Skystar to come with us, but she denied. Lostpath said we could never enter DarkClan without leverage.. We're very thankful for your acceptance," Giselle said sincerely with a warm smile. Sleetpool nodded and they watched the kits with a grin.

The kits would be interacting with their father for the first time. Deathkit was the first to step up to the Tom. The black furred Tom had wide white eyes that seemed awfully skeptical.

"Who are you? Whose everybody else?" Deathkit asked, glaring around silently. His brothers stepped forward and they formed a small huddle. Sharpkit puffed out his sharp fur and Tangledkit hunched over the other two.

"I'm your father, and this is your new home," Vulturestar explained with a smirk. He had many thing planned for the three toms, and their delivery was opportune to his future plans.

"Oh.. hi! I'm Sharpkit," the smallest Tom said standing and swishing his tall back and forth. The black furred Tom had striped, spikey fur, and grey eyes.

"I'm Tangledkit... and that's Deathkit," the biggest Tom kit said gesturing toward his other brother. Deathkit wasn't returning Vulturestar's glare and instead glaring at his white paws maliciously.

"You did something to mother... I just know it," Deathkit mumbled before before making a hasty exit to Giselle. He hid under her fluffy tail and she wasted no time asking questions. She silently led him, and the other kits to the nursery. Sleetpool glanced at Vulturestar's hurt expression before the Tom turned for his den also.

"Fierceclaw, I'm going to go check on Vulturestar. You'll be fine, right?" Sleetpool asked her mate. He stood and nodded, but turned looked deep into her eyes.

"Yes. I'm fine, but I'm worried about... the battle. You said it's on the full moon... well, I'm just worried for the kits. What if..."

"No! Don't think like that. Besides, its only been half a moon, and I'm great at fighting. We don't even know battle strategies yet, but I'm planning to ask him now. Stop worrying... I love you," she said before giving him an affectionate lick.

"I love you too."

She then set off for her leader's den where Vulturestar was hunched inside. He let off a scary air, that would've made anyone else shiver. "Vulturestar... is everything alright?"

"Yes, why wouldn't it be? If my family affairs truly bothered me... I'd have less lives!" Vulturestar laughed, trying to rub off his tension. Sleetpool couldn't quite relate with his situation so stayed quiet. She didn't want to be disrespectful.

"We need to start preparing for the battle. Last time, the force was unexpected... but this time. We know. Our territory will be a tough playing field for the others. Patrols will be sent to collect thorns, brambles and other barriers. We will pile these around the camp, territory and various crevices where cats may fall... I purpose creating obstacles which lead them right were we want them.Fighting with these, will give us a huge advantage! While you and the clan are preparing these, I will take Lostpath and a few other warriors to retrieve the Warriors at VoidClan... and finish Voidstar once and for all. Her days of distraction, are over."

"This starts tomorrow?" Sleetpool asked trying to clarify. The patrols would have to be wisely planned, and dispersed equally.

"Yes."

Meanwhile, in MountainClan, Stormchaser was hunting near the eastern border with Swiftfawn and Riverpaw. The caramel brown furred she cat led the three quickly through the forest.

Ever since her mate, Leapinghare had passed into LightClan, Swiftfawn devoted her entire existence to get apprentice, Riverpaw. And it wasn't hard. The young she cat was brilliant, the oldest apprentice, and no doubtingly the best. Her hunting was superb and her fighting wasn't far from perfect. The three were on hunting duty while the rest of the clan prepared for battle.

Redstar had to explain to the Warriors and apprentices how winning a battle was not based on death counts, but strength. Any cat that wanted mercy, was to be given mercy. An no cat should be killed unless it be utterly necessary. Horsetail and Bushpaw foscused on finding herbs that healed battle wounds, and Dapplestone gladly taught the kits basic defense moves.

Swiftfawn was completely ready to avenge Leapinghare, and would kill anyone to make it happen. They made a vow, and she broke it out of her pathetic inability to have kits, and now she had nothing except her clan.

"Alright, Riverpaw. We're going to have a race to the rabbit. Last time, Stormchaser surprisingly won, and that's why he's with us.

There's only a few rules. You can't spend more than a 30 seconds on your stalk, and you can't trip anyone or chase the rabbit into an obstacle. You have to catch it straight on. Whoever catches the most, wins. Now, go!"

Stormchaser took off in the opposite direction of the she cats. He was running north when he scented a far off rabbit. In no time, he spotted the rabbit and took off. His feet glided over forest floor until he feet the rabbit's fur under his claws. Once the rabbit was dead, he dug a hole and buried his prey, planning to come back and fetch it later. It took him longer to catch another rabbit scent, but when he did, it didn't take long before the rabbit was in his line of site. Just as he took off, another hunter did and the two cars collided, both missing the rabbit.

"I'm so sorry... that was stupid of me," the she cat said with an overwhelmed expression. He looked more closely at the she cat, while shaking his head.

"No, no. It's fine. I was just... caught in the hunt..."

"Oh! That's okay. There's tons of prey... Are you MountainClan?"

"Yeah, well I've been since half a moon now. And your must be CaveClan?"

"Yeah. I'm Shymask. I was Shystar of PureClan but stuff happened so... yeah," she explained with a smile. Stormchaser smiled back and stared at the peach furred she cat fondly. *She's so beautiful...* "And, you are?"

"Stormchaser! Yeah, I'm Stormchaser," he replied, trying to not stare anymore. *Hopefully she won't think I'm weird*. Stormchaser immediately thought. If he had any doubt about love at first sight, it vanished.

"How's the clan? CaveClan was there for a bit, while things were tense."

"It's great. But we're worried about the full moon battle..."

"What?"

"Don't you guys know?" Stormchaser asked with a surprised tone. Had no one told CaveClan? "There's a battle on the full moon. VoidClan, MountainClan, CaveClan and LakeClan are striking DarkClan."

"Oh no... Coldstar has been preparing us for battle... but not for the full moon. Thanks Stormchaser, I have to get back to camp..."

"Alright... I hope I see you again, soon!"

"Me too..."

Hope you like the chapter!
We seriously, have about 10 new cats so welcome.

Chapter 46

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He

has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Redstar

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Smoketalon

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Mentor: Wolfheart

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Eaglekit (Tom), Cherrykit (she cat), Rustkit (Tom), Firekit (Tom), Robinkit (Tom), Olivekit (she cat), and Crimsonkit (she cat).

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 1 moon.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 1 moon.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 1 moon.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 1 moon.

CaveClan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. Expecting Darktide's kits.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Queen:
Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. Kits: Nightkit (she cat), Blazekit (she cat)

Apprentices:
Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes.

Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Coldstar

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Puddlepaw- white, grey, and ran furred she cat with icy blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

---

DarkClan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Expecting Fierceclaw's kits.

Warriors:

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Earthfoot.

Airpaw- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. Mentor is Nightjet.

Cedarpaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes. Mentor is Foxheart.

Queens:
Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Expecting Oakstripe's kits.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Expecting Foxheart's kits.

VoidClan-

Leader: Voidstar- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Deputy: Undetermined

Medicine cat: Bird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to

her blindness.

Warriors:

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Apprentices:

Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Kits:
Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one.

Leopardkit- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Deputy: Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:
Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Kits:
Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 2 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 1 moon.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 1 moon.

Unknown forces:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur was spiky, yet kept. 49 moons.

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes. 35 moons.

Warriors:
Alexander- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes. 27 moons.

Giselle- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. 21 moons.

Dragon- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks. 12 moons.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. 15 moons.

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Apprentices:
Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Kits:

Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 1 moon.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

A ringing filled Shadowpaw's ears and he woke from his nest, reluctantly. He glanced over and Thornpaw was also awake. Graystar had warned them of the meeting, and now it was falling into action.

"What does she want? She's a traitor..."

"Don't say that, Thornpaw," Shadowpaw snapped, before rising to his paws. She glared at him before they quietly left the den.

"I don't want to be apart of this anymore. I've got great things going for me, here. I don't need to follow a dead cat's orders," she whispered with an exasperated glare. He scoffed and sighed.

"I'm going. You'll cover for me, right?" Shadowpaw asked. She nodded and headed over to Feathershade and Raspyhowl, who were keeping watch.

"Flirting instead of guarding, are we?"

Feathershade instantly pulled back in embarrassment while Raspyhowl challenged Thornpaw, with his eyes. Redstar adored his apprentice, but Raspyhowl saw past the facades of certain cats.

"Shouldn't you be sleeping, Thornpaw? Mind your own business from now on," Raspyhowl shot back with a snarl. She smirked then turned back to the apprentice's den, knowing Shadowpaw was far from detection. She didn't care much for the stupid Tom, but he displayed great technique and power in battle. He would be a wise ally in battle.

As Thornpaw stepped back into her nest, sore and exhausted, she glanced toward another apprentice who watched her intently. Brinepaw's head was perched and her eyes dug into Thornpaw's pelt like daggers. She quickly picked up on the she cat's jealousy and snickered.

"He's my nephew... you can have him," Thornpaw whispered, before gladly settling into her nest. Brinepaw also scoffed and tried to reclaim her sleep.

Meanwhile, Voidstar lead Moonbliss and the Lynch on a hunt. The hunting grounds were still a little muddy from all the rain that had been plaguing the area, and moss covered the bottoms of the trees in a thick, spongy pelt, but that was good news for Bird, their medicine cat. Moss was apparently excellent for den beds, as well as bloody wounds.

They had been wandering the area for little over an hour, despite the torrential winds that blew around leaves and loose twigs, and so far had caught a shrew and a small vole. No other animals dared to go out in the bad weather.

"This is useless," Lynch, a skinny brown tom, grumbled. Lynch was a very bony. He hadn't caught anything yet, but carried a shrew that Voidstar had caught and given to him to carry.

"We are lucky to have caught so much on a day like this," Moonbliss, ever the optimist, said around the vole in her mouth. "Right Voidstar?"

"She's right, Lynch."

Voidstar paused, sniffing the air. The strong winds had been blowing MountainClan and DarkClan scents up from the lake for the past week, and they always gave her pause. "Smell that, you guys." The other cats sniffed the air. "Tell me what you smell."

"Pine and cedar trees," Moonbliss observed. "And old scents. MountainClan?"

"Yes. Lynch?" Voidstar turned to the tan Tom, who appeared almost

hairless.

"I don't know," Lynch moaned. "Moss, I guess. And plains grass. DarkClan?"

Voidstar smirked. "You got it. The wind will be sending these scents our way until summer. You'll need to be able to judge whether these scents came from our borders or from the lake."

"Yes, Voidstar." The cats nodded, and continued to search for prey. Voidstar did the same, all the while thinking about what Graystar had told her. *A storm is coming. A storm that will either bring the clans to their knees, or make them stronger than they've been in a thousand moons*. Voidstar had learned that this kind of prophecy always meant a cat of some sort. It never turned out to be literal. *So what's so important?*

Above the cats, rain began to fall, coming in from MountainClan's borders. It was a hard, black-clouded rain, and the cats ran to find shelter underneath the boughs of a thick, squat oak tree, gnarled with age.

"It looks like a lightening storm," Moonbliss commented. "Where is the thunder?"

This comment gave Voidstar pause. *A storm..a storm is coming*. She gasped.

"We have to get to VoidClan right now!" She ordered in a panic. Everything was in jeopardy. *They could kill the kits and take the camp...* Voidstar worried racing ahead, but she wasn't fully sure on what was happening.

Not even questioning Voidstar's order, they ran as fast as they could. Over stones and around trees they ran, until their lungs burned and their paws felt numb. Voidstar looked up at the sky, and saw with horror that a streak of light shook inside the biggest, blackest storm cloud. A storm a storm a storm. "Please!" she cried at the could, praying that it was only a crackle, and nothing more.

In the heavy sky, thunder boomed, rattling the air and sending their

hair on end. Voidstar's heart fell, but she kept running in the rain that was beginning to fall in sheets, and then blankets.

"Voidstar, look!" Lynch screamed through the pounding of the rain. Voidstar looked ahead, and saw Lostpath run from their camp. "No.."

"What is he doing here?!" Moonbliss cried in alarm.

Voidstar shivered. "Just keep running!"

I am too late, she thought, but for what, I do not know. The camp was filled with strange, rugged-looking cats. They stood in the middle of camp, talking to Cobb and Cindy. Lostpath was the only cat Voidstar could recognize at the moment. He looked smug, but nervous. All the cats were wet with rain.

"What are you doing here? This is VoidClan territory!" Voidstar yowled, raising her hair threateningly. She bared her teeth at Lostpath, and wished none of this had to be this way.

Lostpath smirked, and a few of the strange cats chuckled. Cindy looked away from Voidstar, and Cobb gave her a frightened.

"We've taken VoidClan," Lostpath crowed. "It is now the territory of a true leader. Not fox-dung by the likes of you..."

Behind her, Moonbliss and Lynch paused. Voidstar laughed. "You think you can lead VoidClan to victory against MountainClan? You'd have better luck finding your manhood."

Lostpath frowned, then growled when another voice started to explain. "Oh, Voidstar, everyone will follow me..."

"Thunderstar?" Voidstar breathed. "What do you want with me?"

"You're going to be powerful incentive my dear. In the meantime, my Warriors and yours will become one, as it was always meant to be. There's only room for so many leaders, and only the strong survive... You're not one of them," he snickered as he stepped out of her den menacingly. Lostpath's group of cats began to circle Voidstar, their expressions hard. Cindy and Cobb left the clearing as

ordered. But Lynch and Moonbliss didn't move from their spots behind her.

Voidstar noticed their pause and turned to face them. "Help me!"

Moonbliss shook her silvery head. "I'm sorry, Voidstar. But More lives are in the line. If we pledge our loyalty now, the kits and we will make it out alive." Lynch nodded his agreement.

"Voidstar turned, and came face-to-face with Thunderstar. The large, striped tom stood next to Lostpath, his yellow eye glinting. "Your giving up leadership will be for the good of the entire clan. Especially when we face MountainClan and their allies."

"Then go ahead and kill me!" Voidstar snapped, crouching into battle preparation.

"Calm down... you'll have your time!" He reassured her with a laugh. Thunderstar was bigger, and more experienced, but Voidstar would not give up VoidClan to him.

Thunderstar snorted, as if the idea was hilarious. "Lock her up."

A few of the cats around her, pounced, pinning her to the muddy ground. Voidstar tried to claw and bite the cats that held her, but their combined force was too strong. A heavy paw struck her head against a rock buried in the mud beside her, and she was knocked unconscious.

"Put her in the den. If she wakes, give her a limp," Thunderstar ordered before turning to Lostpath. "Lostpath, I want you to guard her, personally. If she escapes..," he didn't need to finish the threat. Everyone knew he meant it.

"The battle is almost upon us," he informed his fighters. "When we arrive, we must fight with everything we have. This determines our survival and the survival of our clan. And remember this clan is the only blood you have. Blood comes first, before anything and everything."

Thank you for your patience. Battle is coming sooner then you think.

Chapter 47

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He

has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Redstar

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Smoketalon

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Mentor: Wolfheart

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Eaglekit (Tom), Cherrykit (she cat), Rustkit (Tom), Firekit (Tom), Robinkit (Tom), Olivekit (she cat), and Crimsonkit (she cat).

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 1 moon.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 1 moon.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 1 moon.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 1 moon.

CaveClan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes. Expecting Darktide's kits.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Queen:
Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. Kits: Nightkit (she cat), Blazekit (she cat)

Apprentices:
Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes.

Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Coldstar

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Puddlepaw- white, grey, and ran furred she cat with icy blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

---

DarkClan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Expecting Fierceclaw's kits.

Warriors:

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Earthfoot.

Airpaw- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. Mentor is Nightjet.

Cedarpaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes. Mentor is Foxheart.

Queens:
Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Expecting Oakstripe's kits.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Expecting Foxheart's kits.

Kits:
Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 1 moon.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 1 moon.

VoidClan-

Leader: Voidstar- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Deputy: Undetermined

Medicine cat: Bird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Apprentices:

Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Kits:
Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one.

Leopardkit- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Deputy: Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:
Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Kits:
Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 2 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 1 moon.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 1 moon.

Unknown forces:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur was spiky, yet kept.

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Warriors:
Alexander- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Giselle- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes.

Dragon- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. 15 moons.

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Apprentices:

Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

The sky outside coughed bits of water and leaves as Horsetail and Bushpaw looked over their ample supply of berries. All the rain had given way to bushels and bushels of berries having grown, and now Horsetail was quizzing his young apprentice.

"What berry is this?" Horsetail asked, his eyes set on a large pile of berries, well-organized by Bushpaw inside of a makeshift crater of leaves. They were small, but easy for Bushpaw to recognize.

"That one's easy!" Bushpaw crowed, sitting comfortably against a pile of dried grass. "Those are Juniper berries!" He was right, and Horsetail nodded his approval.

"You can give me the name, but can you give me its affects?" Horsetail asked with a smirk. His apprentice was excellent with names, but often mixed up the medicine's uses. This could lead to trouble in the future, so Horsetail made sure to quiz him extra on this subject.

"Um," Bushpaw struggled. "We use Juniper berries for...stomachache?"

"Finally getting that one right, aye?" but despite his tone, Horsetail beamed. Bushpaw was an excellent student; never complaining and always willing to do whatever asked of him. This loyalty was surprising, considering his parentage, but a good attribute nonetheless. Horsetail set his eyes on a pile of dark-hued bark, sitting dangerously close to a slightly lighter shade of bark. "What's this, then?"

Bushpaw hardly hesitated. "Alder bark! It's good for healing

toothaches, especially when a cat bites a piece of bone and breaks a tooth!" He remembered that one from when Blitzpaw had cracked her fang on a squirrel bone. Bushpaw had helped her carefully, and afterwards they had played with Dapplestone's new kits. He loved playing with the kits, they saw him as a big responsible apprentice, not some weird clan mate.

"Very good, very good. Now what is that bark?" He meant the similar, but lighter shaded bark nearby.

Bushpaw laughed. "That's just drier Alder bark, Horsetail! You can't fool me!"

But Horsetail shook his head. "That's where you're wrong. This is a different bark, and very important!"

"But we don't use any other bark for medicine...," his eyes widened. "Ohh! It's hardwood! For splints to repair broken bones!"

Horsetail rolled his eyes. "Not to mention any cat you fed hardwood to would get horrible constipation. Sharpen up, Bushpaw!"

"Sorry. I'll pay more attention next time." Bushpaw did look sorry, so Horsetail changed the subject. There was something more he needed from the apprentice. The old medicine cat looked around his newly-cleaned den, courtesy of Bushpaw and Tallpaw, and settled his eye on a bright, red cluster of berries, barely peeking out of the leaves he had hidden them under.

"Bushpaw, you are my apprentice. So you would, of course, do anything I ask of you?" the medicine cat's eyes were grim. This was a delicate thing they were doing, and if they were caught...

Bushpaw looked at him funny. "Are you asking me to stop purple root? I only do it when I'm free.. it doesn't disturb anyone!"

"What? No! I just need you to listen to what I have to say."

"Shoot. Okay.."

Horsetail cocked his head to the side. "What is a shoot?"

"Nothing, it's just an expression I made up," Bushpaw sighed. Nowadays, it seemed like the only cats who understood his lingo were Tallpaw and Blitzpaw. *Oh Blitzpaw*..

"Well," Horsetail peeked outside the den entrance to make sure nobody was coming. The rainswept camp was empty, except for Tallpaw and Riverpaw, who were wrestling near the nursery. Dapplestone's kits cheered them on.

"What I am about to tell you is a complete secret, and nobody must know it." Horsetail said very slowly. His eyes glinted as he spoke. "Not even Redstar, or your little apprentice friends."

Bushpaw nodded. "Okay Horsetail, I won't tell a soul, I promise!"

Horsetail paused, weighing his apprentice's answer before speaking. "LightClan has told me that there is a spy, in MountainClan."

"What!" Bushpaw started. "Why won't you tell! Isn't that important..."

"It would cause to much attention, and alert the spy of my knowing. And we do not want this spy to know we are on to them."

"But why?" Bushpaw tried to think of somebody who would spy on them, but couldn't think of anybody. Everyone in MountainClan was so nice and innocent, in his mind.

"Because this cat has been with us longer than many.. and they've dug their way into the clan, blood and claws, convincing us of their loyalty. They were with us when MountainClan began, and are determined to be around when MountainClan falls to a powerful opposition..,"

"Opposition? But, DarkClan doesn't know were attacking... do they?" Bushpaw shivered as it began to rain harder. So much rain, all the time. It was almost like an omen. But of what, he didn't know. Horsetail paused to listen to the rain fall, the shadows from his den making his face look gaunt and mysterious.

"It's been raining for days, raining hard and frequent," Horsetail muttered. "But there is no thunder, nor lightening. Where is the

storm?" he cast his haunted eyes on Bushpaw. "Our opposition will bring with him a powerful storm, believe it. And then we will have our thunder. Beware the storm, Bushpaw. Beware the storm."

Bushpaw shivered. He didn't like the sound of this, not one bit. First spies, and now a doom-bringing force? "Horsetail, what does this have to do with me?"

"Everything, because we are going to beat the spy, I know it. Together. I just need one thing of you..," Horsetail shivered, as if the very thought of the spy hurt him deep inside. *Oh my child*, he thought with despair. *Why must you follow such evil? My own blood..*

"Anything, Horsetail." Bushpaw followed his gaze to the cluster of red berries. They were very shiny, and almost meticulously arranged and hidden, in the farthest corner of Horsetail's den. The sight of them made Bushpaw sick.

"Deathberries," Horsetail said, answering Bushpaw's unspoken thought. "We'll need them if we are to kill the spy.. Before they strike..."

"K-Kill?" Bushpaw shook his head. "No! I won't! I won't be like my father!" He couldn't take a cat's life, no matter how evil. He became a medicine cat to heal, not to harm. This was harming a life, taking it forever.

Horsetail smacked Bushpaw across the face, not unkindly, but very frustrated. "Listen to yourself! I have given my life, my honor to the clans, now it is your turn. For it is medicine cats, who make the real sacrifices. We sit idly by, and can do nothing as warriors run off to die. They pick fights, that we have to fix. We must stay, and be ready to pick up the pieces. Medicine cats watch a clan die out, unable to continue it with children of their own," at this, Horsetail's voice grew pained. "You will do this, or there won't be NO MountainClan to heal. Our leader will die, don't you see?" Horsetail exasperated before he fell into a coughing fit. Bushpaw looked darkly about the den, his thoughts in turmoil. Finally, he looked at his mentor.

"I won't tell anyone about your plan, but I need to think about if I

want to help you." And at this he staggered into the rain, struggling against the wind and blowing leaves that stuck to his pelt. Finding a tree, he chose to sit there instead of in a den. He needed to be away from clan politics, if only for a little while.

This is wrong. He thought darkly. This is very very wrong. Yet there was a little voice inside of him that said otherwise. A voice that was his, but gave him thoughts he did not want. He would take the purple root to keep these voices away, but they persisted after a long day without the herb.

"Bushpaw?" Blitzpaw, in all her striped sweetness, appeared from the apprentice den. He looked up, but said nothing.

His expression alone was enough for Blitzpaw to understand that something was wrong. "What happened? You didn't eat the bile again, did you?"

"No. I don't want to talk about it," Bushpaw muttered. "I'm sorry, it's just been a long day." Blitzpaw nodded in agreement, and sat down next to him, so close that their pelts brushed together and their tails flicked against each other's.

"It has been a really rough day. I feel like I'm not improving at battle at all! Thornpaw, Sunpaw, Tallpaw and Riverpaw are all so good, but I'm just... a hunter," she said brightly.

"But you're an amazing hunter! Sunpaw and Tallpaw don't come close to you... but Thornpaw is brilliant at it all, but she's not as pretty or as nice as you..."

"You're so sweet. Try not to let yourself get sad," she replied while she rubbed the top of her head against Bushpaw's chin. "Please don't be sad, Bushpaw!"

Bushpaw couldn't help but smile. Blitzpaw always managed to make him smile. If he didn't feel so strongly about her in different ways, they could almost be best friends. Except for Tallguy, he thought warmly. *Tall guy's my best friend, but maybe Blitzpaw can be my best girl!*

"I won't be sad," Bushpaw said. "As long as I have you... And Tall-guy!"

Meanwhile, a cat in CaveClan was only experiencing despair.

"Someone help! Help! There's too much blood!" Coldstar screamed as she lay over the Tom's dead body. His black and brown Bengal fur, was stained with blood and his gaping wound revealed his gruesome insides. The blood kept spilling, and she kept screaming.

"Coldstar, WAKE UP!" Cinderstorm demanded as Darkomen rattled the she cat awake. Her night terrors had become more frequent, and the clan was beginning to worry. When she sat up and regained her state of mind, she whipped around to the toms. Her piercing glare would've made every apprentice cry, but her warriors were tougher and had gotten used to her abuse.

"Get out of my den! It's a leader's den!"

Darkomen gave a quick nod and exited immediately while Cinderstorm sat in protest. *This has to stop*... He told himself silently while she narrowed her eyes at him.

"I regret making you deputy... you're disrespectful, lazy and we all know where your loyalty lies..."

"Excuse me! I've done nothing but fight for CaveClan, train CaveClan, and live for CaveClan. You have no right to question my loyalty!" Cinderstorm snapped hastily while she brought herself to a rage. However, she stood slowly, heavy with the kits that would be born anytime that day.

"Get out of my site," Coldstar ordered, impulsively. Her deputy stormed out loudly while she tried to compose herself. The nightmares were becoming worse, as she saw her dead mate die over and over again, each night. She could do nothing to stop it. She could only watch. *I failed you, Darktide... I'm sorry... I never even told you...*

With her silent apology, a kick came from her belly, a the sharp contractions began. She let out a cry before crawling back into her

nest. In no time, Sparrowfeather was present with many herbs, prepared for the day that she knew would come.

"Hurry up and get them out!" Coldstar yelled in pain. Sparrowfeather grunted, then gave her Borage leaves, to produce the milk, then Raspberry leaves to ease the pain. The tastes were a bit bitter and made her gag. "What is this dung!"

"Please calm down, or will I have to get more herbs?" Sparrowfeather requested, hoping LightClan would help her now. It would be her first delivery by herself, and if she failed, the clan may never forgive her.

"AHHHH!" Coldstar screamed in pain as the first was delivered. Sparrowfeather licked it roughly then placed it near Coldstar's belly, where it started to suckle blindly.

"That was a Tom, Coldstar.."

"Tidekit... that's his name," she murmured feebly and she closed her eyes. She didn't scream this time, but held her breath. The second cat was a she cat, that didn't let out a single mewl. And the third kit was also a she cat.

"You can name the second two.."

"They're your kits, Coldstar. Now, take this poppy seed when your ready to sleep. All the kits look okay... but she's pretty quiet..."

"Then she'll be Silentkit. Tell Cinderstorm we leave at soonest dusk, no sooner or later," Coldstar added on as Sparrowfeather began to left. Stress fell open the medicine cat, and she glanced back for reassurance.

"Are you sure? What about the kits?"

"Blackfire, is our clan's queen and will care for them, while we are at war. Just because I'm a mother, doesn't mean I'll sacrifice my loyalty to CaveClan," se explained with a single sigh. She then bit into the poppy seed and started nibbling at it calmly.

"Yes Coldstar," the medicine cat said before heading off to find

Cinderstorm. On the way, she was stopped by a familiar spotted Tom. His grey fur had black spots that covered his pelt.

"How is she?"

"Fine. But grumpy."

"More importantly, how are you?" Spottedpelt asked with a flirtatious grin. She laughed and pushed past him, heading for the herb storage. Once they were in the empty cavern, Sparrowfeather whipped around and licked his ear affectionately.

They had been mates in secret for two moons now. Sadly, they had to keep their love secret because CaveClan laws would completely forbid her from having any affiliation with a Tom. Spottedpelt, however, had been with her since MountainClan and they were quite fond of each other.

"Did you..."

"No. She'd rip my pelt off an leave us for DarkClan. It'll stay this way. As long as we don't have kits, no one will know or care!" Sparrowfeather assured him as she glanced over the piles. She was preparing packages of herbs for the battle. The strategy was that every CaveClan fighter would carry their own supply. Once they would reach the end of the forest, they'd set them down and Sparrowfeather would tend to the sick from there.

"Alright. I better go. I love you.."

"Love you too," she said as he silently left. She was then left once more sorting herbs, until she remembered Blackfire's request from earlier. She needed Feverfew because one of he kits was getting the coughs. It was best that it was tended to immediately to prevent further infection.

Before she left however, she was stopped back a ringing in her ears, followed by a sound in her head. Suddenly her blind eye saw a vision. A massive tabby Tom, with fierce yellow eyes stood on the highest rock, towering everyone. Under his claws, was a cat with a jet black pelt, though it was too unclear to see who, but she had a

strange feeling she knew the cat. *Spiderfang*... she thought, before she saw another cat she recognized. Coldstar shot forward, in a rage, and battled valiantly with the Tom until his massive paws batted her across the face, and she fell off balance. He then, raked claws down her side and blood poured out and down the side of the slanted rock. *The tides have shifted once more, the storm can take nine lives, in one blow. Beware...*

Then, the vision was gone. She sat pondering what to do. *If I tell Coldstar, perhaps she'll laugh, criticize me, or be killed anyway*... I can't know for sure. Sparrowfeather decided to let fate, be fate. And maybe her dreams may become reality.

Tidekit will need an owner. Otherwise, that is all.

Chapter 48

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Redstar- a dark red tabby tom with amber eyes.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Smoketalon- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes but lighter paws.

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He

has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Redstar

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Smoketalon

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. Kits: Eaglekit (Tom), Cherrykit (she cat), Rustkit (Tom), Firekit (Tom), Robinkit (Tom), Olivekit (she cat), and Crimsonkit (she cat).

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 2 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 2 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 2 moons.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 2 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 2 moons.

CaveClan-

Leader: Coldstar- black furred she cat with white legs, paws and Crimson eyes.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Coldstar

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Puddlepaw- white, grey, and ran furred she cat with icy blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Queen:
Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. Kits: Nightkit (she cat), Blazekit (she cat), and Flarekit (Tom)

Kits:
Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes.

DarkClan-

Leader: Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputy: Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Expecting Fierceclaw's kits.

Warriors:

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Hollyfall- a black and grayish furred rag doll she cat with pastel blue eyes.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue

eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Earthfoot.

Airpaw- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. Mentor is Nightjet.

Cedarpaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes. Mentor is Foxheart.

Queens:
Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Expecting Oakstripe's kits.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Expecting Foxheart's kits.

Kits:
Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 1 moon.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 1 moon.

LakeClan-

Leader: Skystar- a dark black she cat with a dark stripe down her back. She has blue eyes.

Deputy: Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:
Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Kits:
Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 2 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 2 moons.

Unknown forces:

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat: Bird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:

Alexander- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Giselle- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes.

Dragon- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. 15 moons.

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Voidstar- small black furred she cat with yellow eyes.

Apprentices:
Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Mentor: Sprucestrike

Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Kits:
Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be

seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. 5 moons.

Leopardkit- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. 5 moons.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

"We don't have time for this! The full moon is almost upon us!" Spiderfang pleaded to Redstar as the camp became ecstatic with energy and commotion. The sun was beginning to set, and Spiderfang was becoming impatient.

"Please, Redstar. I'm warning you now, we have more to face than just Vulturestar. A dangerous Tom is among us! He's got a dozen cats, enough to make a clan... he took my kits too," Skystar said with a begging expression. She realized now, that MountainClan was the only way she'd ever get her kits back. She brought all of LakeClan in hopes that if they fought with MountainClan, Redstar could promise her family back.

"Voidstar never said anything about another enemy.."

"Voidstar is the enemy! She has always been. Vulturestar never wanted war! None of DarkClan did," she said in a struggle to convince him.

"You're a bit bias, but we're more then prepared. CaveClan, VoidClan, and hopefully LakeClan is on our side. DarkClan will not be a problem any longer. Cats will pledge loyalty to new clans or they will be exiled," he explained with a confident and composed air about him. But Skystar was not convinced.

"And what? You're going to kill Vulturestar?" Silence followed, but Redstar still held her glare. She then sighed and stood. "I want my family back. Whatever happens. I'm ready to take care of them, and I'll do whatever it takes."

"I glad we're on the same page then. Regretfully, Shadowpaw

must've ran back to DarkClan. He left two days ago and never returned..."

"Don't let your warriors jump into battle. You can negotiate this and keep everyone alive! That's why I'm coming to you. After what they did to Darktide, Coldstar won't accept a truce... We better go," Skystar finished before exiting the Tom's den and meeting Sweetbreeze, Shadowmoon, and Rockfall. She quickly briefed them on their strategy then set off to give a final goodbye to her kits. Meanwhile, Spiderfang and Redstar announced who would be going.

"All Warriors will be attending. The kits are not allowed to leave camp and must stay in the nursery at all times. Blitzpaw, has agreed to watch over you so that everyone else may join the patrol," Spiderfang announced and the apprentices all tingled in excitement and fear. Blitzpaw said a final goodbye to Bushpaw before she went to the nursery.

After the announcement had been made, Redstar couldn't believe he had forgotten. "Dapplestone, you can't come..."

"Why not? I'm better than the apprentices, I've been practicing.."

"No!"

"YES! You can't stop me. My son is out there! My children will be out there!"

"Whatever. Don't listen to me! Who am I anyway... just your leader," he grumbled before stalking off toward Spiderfang. They then, led the clan out of the camp, and toward DarkClan territory where the battle would soon begin.

The trek down was longer for must, but MountainClan and CaveClan had been training for this, for over a moon. Little did they know, that DarkClan was also prepared. The brambles, thorns, and thickets were set, and would trap any cat that fell short of success.

"Everyone fights except the kits. Future queens may stay in the camp and protect my sons. And cheer up girls, tonight might be

your Warrior ceremony," Vulturestar smirked toward his daughters, who had all grown grudges and hate over him. He had been no father, and they wanted nothing to do with their father's clan. As they slipped out of camp and out of ears length, Vulturestar pulled aside Twistedfoot.

"Watch them, and inform me of their progress afterward. The first one to kill is going to be your mate..."

"Yes Vulturestar," Twistedfoot replied obediently. His leader sat and raised his head to sniff the air.

"I have a great feeling about tonight, my apprentice. Tell the Warriors we're ready. The clans are coming, and we shall match them," Vulturestar instructed carefully as he and the rest of the Warriors left the camp, and headed for battle positions.

As the full moon finally touched the heavens, five clans gathered along the open field. The enemies of DarkClan gathered along the tree-line. LakeClan was on the farthest right, MountainClan, then CaveClan on the left. Vulturestar glanced over the fields for VoidClan, but found no trance. Instead, from the left, came a huge group of cats that Vulturestar did not recognize, except for Lostpath. The Tom had left two days ago, and now he returned with an army of his own, as it appeared.

But as all the clans came closer, to a central rocks, Vulturestar recognized and realized what this was all about. A large, muscular, gray tabby Tom was at the head of the unknown forces. Shortly followed by a ragged brown Tom, Lostpath, and a limping and ashamed Voidstar.

Vulturestar came the cue for his clan to stay as he stepped closer to the unknown forces. The leading Tom was strikingly familiar, except for a hideous gouge in his right eye. It was only when his single eye fell on him, that he knew it was truly him.

"Fa..fa.. father," he murmured to low to be audible. Thunderstar stood only feet from him with a satisfied grin.

"Hello, son."

"Son? Wait... NO!" Voidstar shrieked surging forward and away. Vulturestar couldn't move his glare from his father, but his father addressed the she cat quite bluntly.

"Quiet, *Voidstar*... all will be explained once the other leaders arrive."

"We are here," Redstar announced glancing back at the other cats. He didn't recognize many, but they didn't seem as hostile as he thought they'd be. Before another word could be said, Thunderstar leaped onto the large slanted stone and inspected the many cats that had come. He was satisified with the number and wasted no time getting to introductions.

"I am Thunderstar! Former leader of SkyClan... But my clan was destroyed, like so many of yours," he proclaimed glancing around the many cats. Among the MountainClan cats, he immediately caught Dapplestone's gaze, and she expressed a shocked expression. *Does she not trust I'll come back for her?* After glancing at CaveClan's forces, he caught Shymask's glance, and he saw the trace of sorrow in her eyes. Has empathy. *She may be useful.* "I came here from word of mouth, to find a new home. As many of you have also. But different then several cats here, I offer peace, security, and the warrior code."

Cats from VoidClan and DarkClan alike cheered while the others still had skeptics.

"This... battle... would have been another step of destruction that clans would have brought upon themselves. Though I have apprehended the instigator and criminal, and she will have trial shortly," he said glancing over at Voidstar, hissing at the bottom of the rock. *This isn't apart of the deal...* She thought silently. "But this all occurred for the simple mistake of misjudged leadership. Too many leaders, equals to many mistakes. No cat is perfect, but your leader should exemplify what LightClan and the Warrior code wish... not lead you into useless battles for selfish reasons.."

At those words, he glanced directly at Coldstar, Voidstar and Skystar. They all did want something from the battle, but they didn't feel it wrong as Thunderstar did.

"Too many leaders, equals destructions. One Clan, and one leader would solve all of that. So today, I stand before you, the most qualified leader out there, prepared to protect my clan at all costs..."

"You're a dictator!" Horsetail shouted out of the blue. His voice was filled with rage and anguish but Thunderstar just grinned.

"I'm afraid not, Horsetail. We shall hold, a vote. If a Leader, Deputy or medicine cat opposes the killing of Voidstar, we shall not kill her and she shall be released... If but one person of leadership from every clan agrees, then she shall be slaughtered..."

A flood of silence washed over and Redstar looked at Horsetail silently. *He won't have MountainClan's vote...* Redstar seemed to tell him through his eyes. Horsetail nodded but the other cats worked so convinced.

"All who agree, say I.."

"I," said Vulturestar and Sleetpool simultaneously.

"I," Coldstar said from CaveClan, fulfilling her vow to Darktide. She hoped for the most gruesome death possible to befall the she cat.

"I," Skystar also said, hoping her loyalty to Thunderstar's plans would retrieve her kits and save the rest of her family. Next, Thunderstar sat stagnant, staring down the three leaders of MountainClan, trying to see if one bared any weakness. He found the weak link in Spiderfang, and the Tom stared back at him reluctantly.

"I," Spiderfang spat.

"How could you!" Horsetail yelled, pouncing toward him, but Redstar stopped him. Both shared a newfound hate toward the Tom, but Redstar wasn't about to let his own clan's blood spill.

"Very well. Objections Voidstar?"

"Your father will kill you, Vulturestar... Or worse, he'll kill your kits... LightClan has foreseen it! He'll murder you all!"

Sparrowfeather watched coldly, as her vision became true. Thunderstar had Voidstar under his claws, in second. She now realized it wasn't Spiderfang but Voidstar under his claws.

With one laugh, he sliced his claws deep, across her throat. Suddenly blood and more blood spill, and gruesome entrails slipped out and onto the rocks. Voidstar had violent tremors that continued seven times until she fell completely still, forever.

Just like the vision, Coldstar shot forward, in a rage. No one knew what set we off, but that she battled valiantly. She took him head on, and being a strong large she cat almost matched his strength. However, her legs fumbled and his kicked them expertly then his massive paws batted her across the face, and she fell off balance an rolled down the rock. He raked claws down her side and blood poured out and down the side of the slanted rock. *The tides have shifted once more, the storm can take nine lives, in one blow. Beware...*

*"*No!" Sparrowfeather screamed in all its horror as the words filled her head.

"Join us, or die like they did..."

"MOUNTAINCLAN ATTACK!"

"DARKCLAN ATTACK!"

And the battle began. Thunderstar stood on top of the rock and observed as Redstar and Vulturestar took each other on, violently. Sprucestrike wasted no time, and found Shymask, who recognized him in horror.

"No... no... no! I exiled you! You're supposed to be dead!" Shymask screamed in horror. He tried to kill his brother, his clan, and Rockdust. If he was still alive, no Rockdust... no.

"That's right, Shystar. I killed Rockdust, your precious little rogue filth of a mate. And now, I'm going to kill your kits. Which one should I kill first? Is his name, Fairpaw?"

"NO!" She screamed in fury as she charged the Tom head on. They quarreled and fought viciously throughout the duration of the

battle, until Sprucestrike gained the upper hand. "While you lose this life, I'll pay Fairpaw a visit..."

"Get away from her!" Stormchaser shouted as he barreled into the Tom. Sprucestrike fell off balance, and into one of the crevices below. Thorns engulfed him and he cried out in pain, as Shymask and Stormchaser limped away.

"You saved me? I couldn't thank you enough, Stormchaser..."

"Shymask. I know we only met the other day, but I love you! And I want to spend the rest of my life with you," Stormchaser stated out bluntly and Shymask gasped at the rush. Rockdust was gone, and she knew that she could love again.

"And I you. But first, we need to help our clans..."

When the battle started, Fairpaw headed straight for Twistedfoot. He had been practicing non-stop for the moment. He had to avenge Flintpaw, his true brother. Twistedfoot had the same idea, and they collided almost immediately. Fairpaw wanted to believe that without his one paw, Twistedfoot would be at a disadvantage. But it wasn't true.

"Why! We're your blood!"

"Not anymore! Vulturestar and DarkClan is my true blood, *brother*..."

"You're a monster! Mother can't bear to seen me anymore, because of you! You ruined our family Twistedfoot!"

"You're pathetic," Twistedfoot mumbled before rolling under Fairpaw and preparing to strike the belly, but Fairpaw was ready, also. He brought down his claws in a slash, but it didn't find its mark. A silver Bengal pelt barreled into him and they all fell apart.

"Kill him now, Gempaw! You'll be accepted by your father, and you'll have power and.."

"Get away Fairpaw! Now!" She begged as Twistedfoot came to his feet. He shook his head but she gave him a fiery glare and he somehow new, for Gempaw's sake, he needed to leave. By the time

Twistedfoot was ready, Fairpaw had disappeared.

"Don't you see what a mistake you've made... you have to fight!"

"I'll kill anyone but your brother or mine," Gempaw promised with a miserable plea. He soon realized how irrational he was being, and calmed down. Everything could work out fine, and he could still keep Gempaw close to him.

"Puddlepaw... she's a traitor..."

Gempaw didn't ask further questions, instead Twistedfoot led her to the she cat who was battling her sisters Bubblepaw and Rainpaw. Puddlepaw had Timberpaw and Oceanpaw beside her and they were fending off nicely, until Gempaw arrived. Twistedfoot sat back and let Gempaw decide her own fate. And she did.

The she cat surpassed her sisters and walked right of to Puddlepaw, who has weary eyes, yearning for mercy. Gempaw wouldn't provide it. Instead, she bit the she cat by the scruff and brought her right hind up an slashed it across the she cat's belly, before throwing her aside. It all happened so fast, that no one could stop it.

Gempaw then beckoned her sisters with her tail, figuring one apprentice dead, would be enough. They had to get out before their father noticed an killing the others would take too long. Besides someone would need to bury the cat's body. Oceanpaw couldn't contain himself, and for the first time in his life, didn't care about the ocean, nor water nor his own life. He just wanted his friend back.

"Don't touch my daughters!" Dapplestone screamed as she pounced onto Hollyfall. The she cat was about to hurt Palepaw, and had already injured Tinypaw.

Hollyfall was not prepared, as Dapplestone. The she cat surged forward and dig her claws into the she cat's pelt before ripping them down her belly. Blood poured out and the she cat quickly died feebly. Dapplestone then carried Tinypaw back to camp to be treated, wishing Palepaw farewell.

Others continued to battle, including Tallpaw, Smoketalon, Shadowmoon, and Skystar, who were determined to get into DarkClan's camp and retrieve the kits. Though, Thunderstar's forces were great, and they reached a weak point. Dragon and Tallpaw fought it out as Oakstripe and Maliceflame held back the Warriors. Skystar managed to make it past, but the upper hand fell to their opposing forces.

Maliceflame, heavy with kits, pinned down Smoketalon. Before Tallpaw or Shadowmoon could attempt to help, Oakstripe helped his mate by slitting Smoketalon's throat.

"No!" Tallpaw shrieked as he saw the death occur. At that moment, Shadowmoon broke free from Poisonberry's grasp and surged forward. She battled into Oakstripe head on, and they tumbled over and into DarkClan's camp. The fall wouldn't have been fatal of thorns hadn't lined the bottom of the camp. The DarkClan Tom screamed as he was engulfed into the thorns, but Shadowmoon escaped with only a few scratches.

"NO! My love!" Maliceflame cried out, before she spun back to Tallpaw in a rage. She pounced forward and bit her front foot violently. She crunched down, and in results broke Tallpaw's foot. He screamed in excruciating pain and she continued to slash the apprentice rashly until Thunderstar, himself, stopped her.

"Stop, Maliceflame. Go back to camp, the battle is almost over anyway," he chuckled but she hissed and turned away reluctantly. She didn't want to oppose authority but she couldn't let Oakstripe be hurt in vain.

As Skystar made her way across her old camp's clearing and to the nursery, a familiar voice stopped her.

"Nightsky, please..."

"I hold no allegiance to DarkClan, anymore. My name, is Skystar," she said as she turned to face Vulturestar. Her former mate looked barely scratched. His handsomeness had not changed.

"I love you... you're the only one. I thought you were dead," he

murmured has he inched closer. "All I want, is our family back together. You, our sons and daughters and I..."

"Herbkit's dead. You let our daughter die. Shadowpaw was floating from clan's last time I checked, and you barely care for Bubblepaw and Rainpaw. Your true heirs... You're *no* mate, and definitely, *no* father," she hissed in fury. Vulturestar's fur rose in rage, but she took no fear from his intimidation. She was afraid once, but no longer.

"Kill her son. Or I shall," Thunderstar advised as he strolled into the camp. Vulturestar was shocked at his father's suggestion, but his father didn't flinch. "She's a threat to your heirs, and this clan. Your mate had her chance to be faithful, but now... she has ended all loyalty."

"He's a monster Vulturestar... he conspired with Lostpath to bring the kits to you. He's been here all along! He's been lying!"

"No! Just shut up, both of you..." Vulturestar yelled before staring at his paws. The two didn't utter anything until Vulturestar shot forward with unsheathed claws. "I still love you," he said as he stared deep into her blue eyes. They began to tear right before he sliced his claws across her neck. This resulted in seven consecutive tremors that ended Skystar forever.

Shadowmoon, hidden nearby, wasted no time retrieving the stole my kits, and instead ran to find Rockfall and call retreat. They're too strong... too brutal...

"Retreat! LakeClan retreat!" Shadowmoon called out. Sweetbreeze looked at the fellow medicine cats she had been healing with, and took off also. Yet, they brought back more Warriors then they thought.

"Take us with you," Silverfeather, one of Thunderstar's Warriors, pleaded urgently. Behind her, was another warrior, two apprentices, and two kits from the destroyed VoidClan.

"Hurry," Sweetbreeze said as she took off, following Rockfall's lead. She hoped these refugees wouldn't betray them. They had already

lost so much.

Meanwhile, Cinderstorm was still trying to cope with Coldstar's death. He couldn't stand the sight of her dead cold body being left, so he had Earthpaw and Silverpaw take it back. The apprentices had no objection and did as told. Cinderstorm continued to fight DarkClan forces senselessly.

He caught site of a cream furred she cat with green eyes, and shot forward. He took her down quickly but he was quickly stopped by a blunt force to the belly.

"Stop Cinderstorm! The Clans are retreating!" Jaggedclaw pleaded seeing that Ivysong, the she cat, didn't want to be there either. He also found the she cat quite attractive which didn't help the situation.

"They killed Coldstar!"

"You can't bring her back! Go!" Jaggedclaw told Ivysong as he blocked Cinderstorm's path. The deputy hissed then took off to the rock.

"CaveClan.. retreat," he said in a defeated manner. Frostycloud hissed, and Darkomen spat but their Warriors were injured and some dead. Soon after, Redstar himself had to accept defeat. His battle with Vulturestar was too evenly matched, that there was no winner, but he vowed to come back and try again.

"MountainClan, retreat!"

The end of the battle soon came, and Thunderstar stood victorious on the center rock from which he murdered two leaders on. However, his son and the leader of DarkClan, buried his mate. Even through all they had been through, Lostpath was still there to mourn and bury Voidstar.

Sprucestrike, managed to pluck himself out of the thorn beds and limp back to camp. Oakstripe, however, did not make it out of the thorns, yet was still breathing.

"Sleetpool. Earthfoot. Help me get him out of here!" Maliceflame

called out, as the last of the Warriors filtered into camp.

"You'll will do no such thing," Thunderstar ordered heavily. "If he is not strong enough to survive, he is not not strong enough for our new clan.."

"That's ridiculous! He's the strongest cat of DarkClan..."

"Obviously not. I, Thunderstar, new leader of this clan, will be instructing new laws tomorrow. In the meantime, I need to see Vulturestar and our deputies..."

The DarkClan cats kept suspicious but followed orders and retired to their den. Bird, the new medicine cat by force, focused on healing everyone who was terribly injured. Only, Hollyfall,

The other clans suffered worse. Puddlepaw and Coldstar were the only deaths from CaveClan. LakeClan lost Skystar. MountainClan had lost Smoketalon, but Feathershade, Tallpaw and Tinypaw were all severely injured and could pass any day.

On the way back, Redstar joined Dapplestone and refused to look at Spiderfang. His deputy had betrayed his trust, and chose to let a cat die.

"You'll need to forgive him," Dapplestone whispered as they headed for their den. She didn't want to wake the kits, and wanted to spend time with Redstar anyway.

"I don't know. He knew we were against all of that, yet he disobeyed my wishes and let executions be deemed alright if majority. Killing any cat is never right..."

"But you would've have Vulturestar and Thunderstar killed?" Dapplestone asked coldly. Redstar immediately became apologetic.

"Only if it came down to it. I'm sorry, I brought such things up..."

"Well, there's one way you could make it up.. And I think we both need a stress reliever," Dapplestone smirked, mischievously. Redstar understood and began to share tongues with her. After they had finished what mates do, Redstar gave her a final lick and went to

sleep. Dapplestone was about to also, when she remembered the vital words once said to her. *You must stay loyal...* "I love you Redstar, but I love Thunderstar more..."

Before Redstar could even stir at her voice, she ripped her claws down Redstar's belly and blood immediately spilled out. His eyes shot open and he gasped and grunted in pain, as his nine lives were ripped from him almost instantly.

Dapplestone licked her paws before leaving the den, and planned to pass the night's guard. To her dismay, Raspyhowl and Horsetail were sharing a conversation, and both would be entirely too suspicious of her.

"Where are you going so late at night?" Raspyhowl cornered as Horsetail glanced over her scarcely. She grinned and shook her head.

"I was just going for a walk. Bushpaw left some of the herbs and asked if I would retrieve them..."

"I can do that, Dapplestone. You best go rest, it's been a long night," Horsetail advised, with a glint of weariness in his eyes.

"Well, can I tell you two something before I go," Dapplestone began quietly, stepping closer to the two. At that moment, Horsetail smelled the blood on her breath and he hissed and looked up at her.

"NO!" Horsetail screamed shooting forward. She dodged him and screamed.

"He's dead! Redstar is dead!" She faked the cry of agony then sent a single grin to the toms. Horsetail grunted and ran to Redstar's den while Raspyhowl watched her stalk off, with fury.

"Why!" Raspyhowl asked in horror. What cat would kill their own mate?

"Blood before clan..."

And she was gone.

Share your respects in the comment.

R.I.P. VOIDSTAR

From the beginning, Void, a simple kittypet, showed great promise. Her ambition took her far, but all things come to an end. Thunderstar was sure of that.

Thank you so much MysteryHarp for being such a committed member of this story. You've been here from the beginning and you've stuck with us through everything. We will miss Voidstar, and all her plot-churning goodness!

R.I.P. COLDSTAR

Lies, the second entry ever, was a keeper. She came from rough times and made some valuable friends. Her only fault, was loving Darktide. Killed by Thunderstar, her legacy lives on in her kits and clans.

Thank you XxTheRandomKatxX for our commitment and character. We will remember you, forever.

R.I.P. PUDDLEPAW

Poor Puddlepaw's life was a short one. She found her way to VoidClan and was shortly sent as a spy to CaveClan. After making great friends in CaveClan, she gave up spying and devoted herself to them. Sadly, karma bites butt, and Twistedfoot told Gempaw to kill her. In the wrong place at the wrong time, she bit the dust.

Thanks @SnowyWolf445, for Your time with us.

R.I.P. SMOKETALON

Oh Smoketalon. You followed Redstar to MountainClan, and proved to be a very loyal warrior. Even onto death you didn't leave your post, and you trained Tallpaw who is sure to be a great warrior one day.

chromeflame, thanks for your awesomeness!

R.I.P. HOLLYFALL

A fiesty DarkClan she cat with a thirst for blood and loyalty. We will remember you.

@-_-capahchinuh-_-

R.I.P. SKYSTAR

Sky came to us in the beginning with her good friend, Em. Skystar's legacy will live on in her clan and kits. She will be eternally missed.

@ShadeMaple

R.I.P. REDSTAR

The MountainClan leader was unexpectedly struck down by his own mate. No one saw it coming.

Never free though, his legacy will live on in his children, brother, and MountainClan. But will his deputy Spiderfang? Do the same?

Chapter 49

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Deputy has not claimed leadership yet.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Stormchaser

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Spiderfang

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. Expecting Raspyhowl's kits.

Kits:
Eaglekit- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. 1 moon.

Cherrykit- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. 1 moon.

Rustkit- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. 1 moon.

Firekit- a ginger-orange furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Robinkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. 1 moon.

Olivekit- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 1 moon.

Crimsonkit- a pure white she cat with one red paw. 1 moon.

Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 2 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 2 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 2 moons.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 2 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 2 moons.

CaveClan-

Leader: Deputy has not claimed leadership yet.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Apprentices:

Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Queen:
Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. Kits: Nightkit (she cat), Blazekit (she cat), and Flarekit (Tom)

Kits:
Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes.

StormClan-

Leaders: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputies: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Expecting Fierceclaw's kits.

Medicine cat: Bird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Alexander- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Giselle- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes.

Dragon- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. 15 moons.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Earthfoot.

Airpaw- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. Mentor is Nightjet.

Cedarpaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes. Mentor is Foxheart.

Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Mentor: Sprucestrike

Queens:
Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Expecting Oakstripe's kits.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Expecting Foxheart's kits.

Kits:
Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 1 moon.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Deputy has claimed leadership yet.

Deputy: Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:
Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. 47 moons.

Apprentices:

Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Otterpaw- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail.

Kits:
Finchkit- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white

underbelly. She also has grey eyes.

Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 2 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 2 moons.

Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. 5 moons.

Leopardkit- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. 5 moons.

A quiet drizzle was that all that followed the three days. The vigils were lengthy and depressing, and only few words were spoken.

All that was shared with the other clan mates, was that Redstar was dead. Some still didn't decipher the truth, but most Warriors knew. The murderer hadn't been seen since try killed Redstar.

"Horsetail... is the spy.. Spiderfang? Do he kill Redstar?" Bushpaw whispered as he sorted herbs with Horsetail. It'd be three days and he couldn't cease to think about the spy, and Redstar's death.

"No, Bushpaw.. it was someone else. Come with me, we are going to speak with Spiderfang," Horsetail explained as he led Bushpaw to Spiderfang's den, at the bottom of the leader's tree. He sat inside, hunched and in thought. "Spiderfang, it's been three days. We must discuss this, now!"

"Very well. But it should just be us three. I don't trust anyone, anymore. Not after what the spy did to Redstar..."

"Who is it! We need to banish them! They killed Redstar!"

"You don't understand, Bushpaw," Spiderfang began. Horsetail gave

the Tom silencing glance before turning back to his apprentice.

"Tell me!"

"Bushpaw. It's Dapplestone," he revealed seriously, sending him a cold glare. Bushpaw froze then chuckled a bit, before replying.

"No... she was kidnapped by DarkClan! You said it yourself.."

"It's a lie some of the clan fabricated to avoid the real truth," Horsetail said boldly, glancing about, with little expression. "She murdered Redstar after they..."

"They what?"

"Mated. Her scent drowned out the possibility of any other suspect. For some reason, she didn't care for hiding her scent. Almost as if she was rubbing her victory in our whiskers...Raspyhowl and I are witnesses! She's a traitor..."

"No! She would never do that! She values all life.. Queens value all life!"

"She had everyone fooled, even myself."

"But Horsetail. Will she take her loyalty to Thunderstar?" Spiderfang questioned curiously. He did not know the past of Dapplestone as Horsetail did, but he needed to decipher this hideous plot of murder.

"I knew her before, she came to the clans with her son. I was Skyclan's medicine cat. I was suspicious of her loyalty, but when she said Thunderstar was dead, I immediately let my guard down. Then, my suspicion rose one night, many moons before you were born, she took off out of camp. And, well, she came back the next morning and left off with Patchedfur... I believe she knew Thunderstar was alive. And being mates and meeting in secret... The litter you were raised with, is Thunderstar's, not Patchedfur's," Horsetail explained throughly making both the toms shift uncomfortably. Vulturestar was the product of the two, and he brought destruction to CaveClan in his ambition.

"Tallpaw... is..."

"I'm not sure. But she was pregnant before she mated with Patchedfur. This covered up any trace of Thunderstar, and Patchedfur was conveniently killed by Vulturestar the first confrontation," Horsetail replied placing all the pieces together.

"Why would she, or anyone do this? What do they want?" Bushpaw asked, struggling to understand.

"I was raised in SkyClan and is watched Thunderstar grow up. He was brutal as a child, and his father Graystar showed little love, for he wasn't a legitimate child of his... So Thunderstrike, at the time, did everything to please Graystar. He killed his half-brothers to prove his loyalty and.. He trained his first apprentice, Dapplestone, before becoming deputy. And when he was deputy, it was only a moon before his father lost the nine lives. His first action as leader, was exiling me," Horsetail sighed. Sharing this part of himself was very difficult for him. But Redstar's vengeance needed this.

"He's a dictator, then. Will DarkClan accept his leadership?" Spiderfang cornered, in thought. The medicine cat glanced back with a heavy glare.

"If Vulturestar gives in, they'll give in. Thunderstar will impose his rule upon them, then move onto the rest of the clans..."

"We have to stop this! There must be a way," Bushpaw struggled to say. I won't let Tallpaw get hurt again. And especially not Blitzkit... His friend, Tallpaw, had received serious injuries to his leg. They'd attached a splint but he also received minor head injuries which put him into a coma. He hadn't woken up yet, and Bushpaw was getting worried.

"He can't be fought with.. that's been proven. But perhaps, you, Cinderstorm and Shadowmoon could reason with him..."

"What! Horsetail, I can't... I'm not.."

"You're not what? You're the leader now, the only one. Tonight, you'll go to CaveClan and receive your nine lives," Horsetail

instructed as Spiderfang shifted on his paws. He never wanted to be leader. Spiderfang expected Redstar would outlive him, and a younger deputy would succeed him. But now, everything he knew, was truly dying and slowly crumbling away.

"Fine. I'll take, Thornpaw, Blitzpaw and Sunpaw with me. We can't spare any Warriors.. and it will be good for them."

After the meeting was adjured, Bushpaw ran back to the Medicine cat den. Inside, Tinypaw and Tallpaw lay in the nests. Meanwhile, Blitzpaw watched over them until Bushpaw got back.

"Bushpaw! Tinypaw's wound started bleeding again, so I put spider web on it," she explained quickly and he examined the apprentices. Tinypaw was awake, but her tail had been severed and she received a nasty bite around her hunches. She was quite droopy now, knowing that hers as her brother's progress to their Warrior names would be stunted.

"Thanks Blitzpaw.. and get me some Comfrey, Elder leaves, and Goosegrass! If you could apply the Goosegrass to Tinypaw's wound, that'd be awesome! I'm going to apply this splint," Bushpaw said with a michevious grin. Blitzpaw chuckled and flicked him with her tail before working on Tinypaw's wounds.

"You guys are gross. Can you just get me out of here?" Tinypaw grumbled. She wanted to get back to training immediately. She wanted to be a Warrior. Bushpaw and Blitzpaw glared at here, before beginning.

Blitzpaw's task was fairly easy as she applied the Goosegrass with her paw. Tinypaw squirmed and let out a hiss, but she continued. Bushpaw's task was bigger, as he unraveled the splint and gently rubbed the elder leaves on his leg. A quiet muffle came from Tallpaw's voice, but nothing more, as Bushpaw reapplied the splint.

"Tallpaw, I know you can't here me. But the clan is doing good, except for the fact that Redstar was practically murdered by one of our own..."

"Bushpaw!"

"Sorry. You know, I wish I could help you, but we don't have a herb that wakes cats up... unless..."

"You don't have one," Blitzpaw remarked remembering back to herb lessons. Every apprentice was required basic knowledge in case they were ever in a risky situation.

"Yes! I do Blitzpaw! Purple root!"

"Wait, what? That stuff is dangerous," Tinypaw remarked, as she shared a glance with Blitzpaw. She expressed the same worry but Bushpaw shook his head vigorously.

"You're only saying that because you've never tried it!" Bushpaw said as he searched through the stores of herbs. At the lower compartment, hidden from the eye, were a small collection of the roots. He didn't need much usually, and wouldn't take them himself when e was this busy.

Without consulting Horsetail, he placed the herb before Tallpaw's nose, which silently brought in air. *He can't face the root for the first time, and not be phased! It's smell is too potent!* It took minutes before Tallpaw sniffed in the scents of the root, then shot up.

"WOW! I had a dream I was in a novel.. and you were there, and you were there.."

"What's a novel?"

"I don't know!" He said in realization before focusing. "Never mind. Where am I?" Tallpaw chuckled, peering around in dazed laugh. The root had successfully woken him up, and proved its worth.

"Yes! Tallpaw, you've missed so much!"

"I have? Well, can I talk to mom. I wanna make sure she's okay.. I mean, the battle and all.."

"Tallpaw, Dapplestone's gone," Tinypaw said quietly, and the noise and the room dropped into silence.

"What do you mean? She didn't even get injured..."

"No. She left. She murdered Redstar and went back to Thunderstar and Vulturestar!"

"No... no! She would never do that! She loved Redstar!"

"She never loved us more then Vulturestar. It's just proof," Tinypaw said in a shallow whisper.

"She did kill him," Bushpaw mumbled, seeing he had no other advice to help the situation.

"No. She loved us... She must've been threatened. Where is she now? Why would.."

The bundle of questions that ran through the clan, did not cease. It had been three days since her first strike against MountainClan. Dapplestone regretted not bringing her current litter with her, but realized they wouldn't make the long trek, and Thunderstar would find some way to dispose of them, one way or another.

Redstar's death was a terrible pity, for her and all. She had to kill the strongest leader, and that was unfortunately her mate at the time. All the opposing leaders had also been disposed of, and now weakness was inevitable. His death could not be avoided once the command was sent, and she had to have leverage, undoubted loyalty. *What better way to earn a clan's loyalty, then to destroy their sworn enemy?*

In the meantime, she prowled the borders and examined scents from the battle. Nothing was as intriguing, as reuniting with her mate once more. It had been almost 9 moons since their last mating, I mean.. meeting. Dapplestone couldn't wait to rejoin him.

All along, she had meticulously planned with him in their dreams. She never saw his face, but somehow, their messages got across. They had met for the first time since his death, just as she joined the first clan. Then, only Horsetail was leader and she easily slipped past camp one night, and met her mate. It was dark, but they both knew their scents and only had one mission. They had to make the next generation of heirs.

They began the plotting just as she learned she was pregnant with her first litter, Vulturestar and Tulip. Back then, they had learned of a dastardly prophecy that would bring Thunderstar's leadership to perfection, if they followed it. *The storm shall be king of the lake, and beyond, if loyalty is kept by all. No other leader can arise, especially not from that of the Mountain...* Dapplestone presumed that Thunderstar was fretting over the three nights she hadn't shown. They hadn't been together in many moons so he had no way of knowing her allegiance, anymore, for speaking in dreams would risk being caught by a cat of the light. Without Dapplestone, Thunderstar's plans could not be fully realized. And without him, she would never had a worthy life to live.

Stepping onto DarkClan forestry portion of their territory, was unexpectedly simple. The thorns and shadowy thickets kept away all foxes, badgers, or dangerous rogues. Navigating it was difficult, but for Clan cats, it was manageable. She soon realized that the rest of the territory would not be the same. Stepping onto the open, grassy field, she was quickly cornered.

"What are you doing on StormClan territory?" Fierceclaw questioned before taking further action. Luckily, one cat knew her loyalty.

"Don't question her like that. This is Dapplestone! *Thunderstar's Queen..*"

"She has MountainClan scent though," Foxheart added on but Sprucestrike turned to the two, with little patience.

"And you both have disgusting rogue blood in your veins, but do I judge your loyalty by that alone? She had more Warrior blood then both of you combined! So let's give our clan's Queen, a welcome.."

"Thank you, Sprucestrike, but they are quite fine on formalities," Dapplestone said with a decent smile. Both toms seemed weary of her presence, but we're pleased at her politeness.

"We better get back to camp. Thunderstar has a clan ceremony planned for tonight," Fierceclaw remarked. They nodded in agreement and headed off.

When back to camp, Vulturestar was beginning to address the clan. His fur was groomed, and he held a serious expression baring no empathy. His used to have a soft glint in his eyes, reserved for loved ones. But now he only held a anger in his gut.

"As we have said before, our new law shall be explained to you shortly.. But first.. Mother?" Vulturestar said, as he saw Dapplestone. The shock was great for him but she kept a charming smirk.

"Oh Vain, you seem so shocked sweetheart. Even though I told you.."

"Blood before Clan," he murmured in remembrance as the pieces fell together. He wondered why his mother did all these things, and now, it all made sense. But his feelings toward her, didn't change.

"Exactly. Now, where's your father?" She asked, immediately. Vulturestar, not knowing what to think, scowled and glanced over to the east. "He's alone, collecting his thoughts," he almost snapped.

Dapplestone eyed him, before stalking out of camp, and eastward. No one bothered to escort her, for Thunderstar could surely take care of himself. The trek wasn't too long, before she reached a small pond at the bottom of a tall cliff. A single hill led to the top of the cliff, where VoidClan used to lie. She had not traveled there once, to deliver orders to Lostpath. Now, the territory was StormClan's.

Though, the real scenery that caught her eye, was Thunderstar. Her mate sat along the rocky shore of the small pond, as he stared deeply at his reflection. She could only see his thick, corse tabby gray fur on his back, and smell his SkyClan scent mingled with rogue.

"So, you came.."

"Of course I did, love. Did you ever doubt? Has my loyalty not exuded that?" Dapplestone questioned, as she slowly stepped closer. She wasn't sure of his tone, which seemed awfully bitter. She struggled to come closer but his body language was not permitting it.

"You bore two litters that are not mine. That is *no* loyalty," he muttered hatefully, but she chuckled in rely. "You think this is a laughing matter! The only leader's blood that shall exist, is mine. They don't deserve to exist. They can't exist, not if we are to succeed. I thought you knew that..."

"Oh please, love. Don't be so possessive! I had to have Redstar's kits if I was ever to get close enough to kill him. How was I supposed to know there'd be seven? But I assure you, they carry SkyClan blood and will not be problems but assets.."

"Any blood of his will carry problems. We'll have to act wisely, and groom them to loyalty.. But what about the others? The older litter.. Surely, there was no reason to seduce a kittypet!"

"I was just having fun. But the litter is yours. Completely. Remember, you came by.."

"Oh, yes. You know this changes everything. Tell me about them.."

"Four she cats, and one Tom. Two of the she cats are in CaveClan, and aren't that valuable. But Thornpaw, the eldest and Tallpaw, the Tom, are both promising," Dapplestone explained, purposely leaving our Tinypaw. She didn't want her implicated in her father's plans.

"And the fifth. Don't think me so daft, love. I'm smarter then you think.."

"I'm sorry. It's just that, Tinypaw. She's small, weak, would never successfully bear real Warriors. But.."

"She reminds you of Tulip."

"Yes. She does," she replied looking at his ear. He still hadn't faced her, which was beginning to bother her. But his silent thought wasn't to be disturbed.

"Very well. We'll discuss their futures later. But first, I want to show you something," Thunderstar said as he turned his face to her. She had barely any time before, she was faced with a gouged right eye, and only one yellow eye. "Do I disgust you?"

She hadn't seen his eye before. When they met up after his suspected death, it was dark and she didn't pay attention to his eyes. At the battle, she tried to focus on the future tasks, and her children. If she would've glanced at Thunderstar too much, Redstar would've noticed. She was shocked, but not disgusted. Some she cats would have cringed at the gruesome red scabbed scar that left no remains of an eye. It wasn't pretty, but she certainly wasn't disgusted.

"What do you mean? Battle scars are handsomely intriguing," she whispered with a smirk. He grinned and looked back at her hungrily.

"How did you get it, my love?" She asked rubbing her muzzle against his neck. He purred for awhile for replying.

"The Twolegs shot me with their little plastic stones... According to a kittypet. It didn't pierce my brain, but it had destroyed my eye. That's why I couldn't come back yet. I had to train. I could never be a true leader with such weakness that I bore after losing my third life..."

"You'll never have to go through that again. Twolegs have not been present anywhere on the territories, so we may finally have the peace we've been looking for."

"Oh, how I've missed you.."

"You have no idea what I've had to put up with. But now, there's nothing stopping us," Dapplestone said, as their whiskers and noses brushed together.

"Nothing. StormClan will rise, the clans everywhere, will fall and our legacy shall live on... forever..."

Thank you to those who read and vote! I also love reading your comments, they're hilarious at times.

And a few announcements:

- Entry, is going to be shut down soon. I believe.

My statistics, over time, have proven that half of the cats that enter, don't take this seriously enough. We already have enough, and I don't need more cliché cats and whiney little kids. This book has grown too complex for people who can't read the chapters!

If they're boring to read, tell me. Otherwise there's no excuse for not knowing the background of the story.

I mean, the whole freakin Dapplestone twist wouldn't have been as big as an impact if you hadn't have read chapter 5, which went over SkyClan's destruction.

- Also, cats (such as Dapplestone and Thunderstar, just in this chapter) may "get it on", but I'm not going to go into detail. Alrighty? Thank you. Inferring and assuming, is the best route. #nocatporn

- This book is coming to an end. If there's any more events to spice it up, let me know.

Thanks.

Chapter 50

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Deputy has not claimed leadership yet.

Deputy: Spiderfang- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Stormchaser

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Spiderfang

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. Expecting Raspyhowl's kits.

Kits:
Eaglekit- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. 1 moon.

Cherrykit- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. 1 moon.

Rustkit- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. 1 moon.

Firekit- a ginger-orange furred Tom with violet eyes. 1 moon.

Robinkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. 1 moon.

Olivekit- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 1 moon.

Crimsonkit- a pure white she cat with one red paw. 1 moon.

Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 2 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 2 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 2 moons.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 2 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 2 moons.

CaveClan-

Leader: Deputy has not claimed leadership yet.

Deputy: Cinderstorm- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Apprentices:

Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Queen:
Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. Kits: Nightkit (she cat), Blazekit (she cat), and Flarekit (Tom)

Kits:
Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes.

StormClan-

Leaders: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputies: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Expecting Fierceclaw's kits.

Medicine cat: Bird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:

Oakstripe- brown and white ragged tabby tom with gray eyes.

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Alexander- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Giselle- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes.

Dragon- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back. 15 moons.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His

left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Cindy- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cobb- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Apprentices:
Rainpaw- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail. Mentor is Sleetpool.

Bubblepaw- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes. Mentor is Oakstripe.

Gempaw- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Mentor is Earthfoot.

Airpaw- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes. Mentor is Nightjet.

Cedarpaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes. Mentor is Foxheart.

Shadowpaw- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Mentor: Sprucestrike

Queen of the Clan:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Queens:
Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Kits: Four she cats.

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Expecting Foxheart's kits.

Kits:

Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 1 moon.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Deputy has claimed leadership yet.

Deputy: Shadowmoon- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:
Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. 47 moons.

Apprentices:

Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Otterpaw- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail.

Kits:
Finchkit- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes.

Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 3 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 2 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 2 moons.

Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. 5 moons.

Leopardkit- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. 5 moons.

-The following chapter contains violent actions and something horrible inferred. Viewer digression is advised.-

"All cats of higher pride and loyalty, gathered below the jagged stone!" Thunderstar called out to below. He beckoned Vulturestar you sat on his left, because Dapplestone was already sitting on his right.

"Times are changing. Together, we have achieved leaps and bounds. Never before, has one clan murdered four leaders in one night. Thanks to Dapplestone, Vulturestar and I, that has become possible. With undoubted loyalty, we are setting out new clan, on a new found path to victory and power. Beginning with, our names," Thunderstar declared boldly, before glancing around. Most cheered, although a few DarkClan members were unsure. Maliceflame and Sleetpool were among the two who were not looking forward to Vulturestar's father in charge.

"From this day forward, our clan will be known as SkyClan! Most of the cars present, were from the former blood line of SkyClan, but we are truly becoming new. Storms, being the most powerful

phenomenons of nature, can demolish or empower us at their will. Just as our clan will," he explained with a huge grin, full of pride. "All those who have not received Warrior names, come forward.."

At this, the apprentices and rogues of the clan stepped forward. They hoped for the best, but it was all according to Thunderstar's will.

"Alexander, you have been loyal from the very beginning, and have long been promised this. With the power invested in me, you shall be known as Aspenfur. We honor your loyalty and strength," Thunderstar declared loudly, and Aspenfur only gave a curt nod and sat back. "Giselle, you have also been greatly loyal, compassionate, and kind to our clan. You even sacrificed your kits to travel here. From this day forward, you shall be known as Bluewisp.."

Next Thunderstar turned his face to his other supporters, but Dapplestone quietly stopped him. "Change Lynch's name first. Show the VoidClan cats, you're not bias.."

"Lynch! Even though you were formerly VoidClan, you've shown your loyalty through thick and thin. From this day forward, you shall be known as Lotusfoot." Next, Dragon became Dragonstone, Cobb became Dustystripe, and Cindy became Brightfire. "And of course, of medicine cat, Bird, shall now be known as Jaybird.."

The silver-blue she cat did not smile but bowed her head respectively. She was very modest, but one could see that she didn't appreciate Thunderstar's leadership yet.

Thunderstar glanced upon only apprentices left, and let his son take care of their ceremony. Vulturestar stepped up and looked closely upon his daughters. He hadn't quite watched the progress of the apprentices at the battle. He had been too entangled in the battle with Redstar. He glanced over to his faithful apprentice, Twistedfoot, who mouthed the name of his daughter who killed first. *Gempaw*. Vulturestar was pleasantly surprised, and sat up straighter as he continued. He didn't know why he preferred Gempaw to his other daughters. Probably because Gempaw was a challenge, and Bubblepaw was too eager. Rainpaw was the happy

medium, but hadn't quite Twistedfoot's eye.

"Rainpaw, step forward." The she cat was taken by complete surprise. She expected Gempaw would be made a warrior first, but it seemed that things had changed. "Do you promise to uphold the law of StormClan?"

"I.. I do."

"Then from this day forward, you shall be known as Rainpool," Vulturestar said sending a smirk over to Gempaw. All this time, Gempaw though she didn't care, but now she was furious. She placed a facade that made her father yearn to change her, and make her another image of himself, and now that he'd succeeded, she had nothing.

"Bubblepaw, you've also proven yourself. You shall be known as Bubblefur." The other names were excruciating for Gempaw, and she purposely glared at Vulturestar and Thunderstar with more then hate. I killed a cat for them... I deserve this more than anyone. Gempaw repeated in her silent thought. Cedarpaw became Cedarlily, and Airpaw became Airflight. When it seemed as it were over, Dapplestone shot down from the rock and stalked straight over to Gempaw. She batted her across the cheek with a hard paw, the sent Gempaw to the ground.

"Don't look at my son that way, scum blood... You too, *Shadowfilfth*.." Dapplestone muttered at the two other apprentices before returning to Thunderstar's side. Thunderstar was more then intrigued now, and observed and questioned accordingly.

"We all know what crime Shadowpaw faces, but what about the she cat.."

"She's my daughter... my illegitimate daughter," Vulturestar murmured quietly to his father, who nodded, with his glare still fixed on Gempaw.

"What *blood* was your mother, Gempaw?"

"She was... a kittypet," Gempaw huffed, crawling into her paws.

Dapplestone faked a gasp, while Thunderstar chuckled and turned to his son.

"Seriously? There are better ways to play, Vulturestar. You should've killed her long ago, now you'll have to do it, in front of the clan," Thunderstar decided with a flick of his tail. Gempaw's jaw gaped open, as the words slipped out.

"Don't act so surprised, Gempaw. I mean, if you weren't illegitimate and your father actually did love your dead mother, I wouldn't mind. But, he never did love your mother, and that's the sad truth. Kill her, Vulturestar, or I'll make it very painful and messy," Thunderstar threatened as he began to lick his paw in the meantime. Vulturestar, wanting so much to please his father, leaped down from the jagged stone, and walked toward Gempaw.

Twistedfoot, nearby and disgusted at the situation, shot forward in front of her. He stopped Vulturestar in his tracks, and mentor and apprentice began to stare down each other.

"Get out of the way, Twistedfoot," he began quietly. He didn't want to kill two of his most beloved apprentices in one day. *No Twistedfoot, you've come to far...*

"No. She killed another cat for DarkClan, and she's stayed with DarkClan. She's nothing but DarkClan."

"Exactly, *ugly*. She *is not* StormClan," Dapplestone snapped back with a smirk.

"Twistedfoot, get out of the way. Don't make this harder then it needs to be," Gempaw grumbled, in a defeated state. She was ready to see her mother, her dead sister, pay apologies to Puddlepaw and experience LightClan once and for all.

"*Gempaw*... I love you and you're not leaving me," Twistedfoot hissed quietly as Vulturestar took more steps toward them.

"How sweet, young love. Remember us back then Dapplestone.."

"Certainly."

"Alright. Hurry up Vulturestar," his father ordered while still fonduing over Dapplestone.

At that moment, Vulturestar grunted and shot forward, and Twistedfoot turned to face him. The leader grabbed his hunches and attempted to bite his jugular, but Twistedfoot rolled over, and crushed him against the ground. They clawed and nipped at each other, while Shadowpaw attempted to make a break for it.

"Come on, it's our only chance!"

"We can't leave him!"

"We can't save him!"

"You two aren't going anywhere," Thunderstar declared, as he also jumped down. Shadowpaw took off, but Gempaw felt a burst of courage as she faced the tom, who was tripe her size.

"You're a monster..."

"No, Gempaw. I'm saving you from the pain I had to face. No one cares for a illegitimate child, they cast them out and leave them to rot. You and I, are similar in ways you can't imagine. This is your test Gempaw, don't fail it.."

She was about to reply, when a white blur crashed into Thunderstar and threw him off course. Maliceflame continued to fight with the leader until Gempaw darted off, and after Shadowpaw. If she died then, his words would haunt her until the end of time. After the two apprentices had escaped, Vulturestar stopped battling with Twistedfoot and retreated to his rock. And Thunderstar threw Maliceflame onto the ground.

"I shall deal with your punishments later... but first, lets address this new law, so everyone is clear on how to behave," Thunderstar began, shooting glares at Maliceflame and Twistedfoot. "1st rule, is that loyalty is absolute. You do not care for other clan cats, you do not mate with other clan cats, and we do not let other clan cats live unless they pledge loyalty or exemplify value to us. Letting another cat live and letting them die, could be the difference between

starvation in leaf bare." The seriousness of the conversation his the air, and everyone was silent in indecisive fear.

"2nd rule, is that respect, is absolute. We treat one another as we treat ourselves. And you treat leaders, better than any figure of LightClan. Leaders eat first, elders eat second, Warriors third, apprentices then kits. If we can't feed a kit, we end its misery."

Deathkit, Tangledkit, and Sharpkit exchanged silent and fearful expressions from the small cavern from which they were watching. Rosejay covered her belly instinctively, and Sleetpool perked her ears in alarm.

"Apprenticeship will be at 4 or 5 moons, depending on size and other factors. Impeachment of deputy must be by 3/4 of the clan, and leader's impeachment must be unanimous. I may seem strict at times, but that's because I realize the steps that will bring our clan to victory, and I'm brave enough to take them," he explained with an expressionless expression. "And finally, mating may only take place with other clan mates and permitted rogues. Dapplestone, or any future Queen of the clan, must permit the matching for it is permanent. If any clan cat is found mating with another from outside the clan, the kits shall be killed, but the cat shall be given another chance. Are all these laws clear?"

"Yes," some of the cats replied quietly and some didn't bother to.

"Now, punishments," Thunderstar said, leaping down from the rock once more. He headed straight for the medicine cat den, where Oakstripe was recovering. The Tom was weak, and barely awake when Thunderstar slit his throat. Jaybird cursed at him in anger, but quickly shut her mouth when he flipped around.

"Respect... Jaybird. The last medicine cat that I quarreled with, ended up exiled and on the enemy side. You don't want to be an enemy.."

"You killed him!" Maliceflame spat with fire in her eyes, and a voice full of malice.

"Yes. And unless you want your newborns to face the same fate,

you'll come with me."

Maliceflame gulped then followed the leader out of camp. They went far from camp to the desolate forestry portion of the territory, where he turned on her.

"You have disobeyed me almost three times, Maliceflame. Do you know what the penalty for disobedience is?" He asked in a stern and unforgiving voice.

"Death."

"I'm afraid it's worse," at those words he batted her on the face again and tore her ear roughly. He then bit onto her scruff harshly and she struggled to get free, but Thunderstar was far too strong. When the nightmare was over, he left her weeping in the forest, and returned back to camp, without a shred of remorse.

Meanwhile, Shadowmoon was preparing to leave her camp. New cats had joined, and her hope was rising, but first she had to receive the nine lives which were promised to leaders.

"I place Rockfall in deputy ship, in case I shall not return. I want you all to know, that we will do our best, to keep LakeClan safe," Shadowmoon declared before heading over onto the marshy territory, past the streams, then the dangerous river that split CaveClan and LakeClan territory.

She didn't bring any of the clan with her, in case she faced unexpected turmoil on the way. It had only been three or four days since the battle, but the new cats were forming LakeClan quickly. Rockfall, a loyal Tom and father to Winterkit, had always been trustworthy and there for her. He would prove an excellent deputy. Silverfeather and Dovepool were two sisters that were formerly apprentices of SkyClan, who were made warrior by Thunderstar right before SkyClan's untimely demise. They pledged loyalty to LakeClan very quickly. Mistypaw, Lightpaw, and Otterpaw were all very promising apprentices and she knew they'd continue their clan's legacy.

Although Skystar was terribly missed, Sweetbreeze told the clan

that she was fairing well in LightClan, and hunted with her daughter Herbkit, everyday, among the stars.

Shadowmoon believed her clan would survive and was determined to make it happen.

When she arrived at CaveClan's cavern, exhausted but urgent, Spiderfang and Cinderstorm were awaiting her arrival.

"Greetings. Spiderfang, did somethin happen to Redstar?" She asked immediately, noticing CaveClan's somber expressions. Cinderstorm also bore a saddened expression.

"Dapplestone murdered him, the night we got back. All of his lives were taken from him, in one slash.."

"That's horrible.. I don't know what to say.."

"Let's just hurry. You both need to get back to your clans," Cinderstorm replied urgently, before leading them into the caverns. They walked among the narrow tunnels until they reached a circular space, with a small pool of water that reflected the moonlight.

The three sat forward and touched nose with the water which instantly brought each of them to LightClan. Each were brought to the same starry meadow, where Sunlight, leader of LightClan, sat in the middle silently.

"Each of you, are destined to lead your clans. Light nor Darkness can tell which path, but I, hope for the best."

As the she cat announced that, unfamiliar cats walked over to each of the leaders. A large black furred Tom appeared to Spiderfang. He did not recognize the Tom, yet he was giving him a life.

"Spiderfang, and I yours and Feathershade's father. I never got to meet you, because I was killed by, what twoleg's call, a car. With this life, I give you wise mentoring, that you may teach your apprentices and your children, what I never taught you," the Tom said with a low voice. Spiderfang felt a sharp pain run through him, and it took him by surprise. Next, a brown and grey Bengal Tom

trotted out of nowhere, with a black and white she cat by his side.

"Darktide! And Coldstar!"

"We missed you too," Darktide said, overwhelmed by the excitement surrounded around him.

"We give each of the leaders, friendship and wisdom," Coldstar said with a smile before they disappeared. This time, each of the leaders experienced the pain Spiderfang had felt. Soon the next cats stepped out, and Cinderstorm was especially happy to see them. Patchedfur, and Softstep each trotted over with wide and happy expressions.

"I'm Patchedfur, and I didn't have the opportunity to meet you, Shadowmoon, but you seem like a rest cat. I want to thank you both Cinderstorm and Spiderfang, for welcoming me into the clan. Although my time was short, you did more for me then any twoleg could've done in a lifetime. I give you each, forgiveness."

Once more pain courses through them, as Softstep made her way forward.

"I made some regrettable choices. But out of everything, I regret not being able to stand up, for the sake of my children, Bushpaw and Gempaw. So with this life, I give you each strength, so that you may abide by confidence and wisdom, and not let fear control your decisions," she said with a small smile. Once again the leaders felt the pain until a black-blue she cat stepped forward.

"Skystar.. I'm so sorry about the battle. I should've been there for you.."

"No, Shadowmoon. Please, do not share your apologies. Let them go, and be at peace. I wish you the best wishes with leading LakeClan, Shadowmoon. And Cinderstorm, I am sorry I never got the opportunity to love you, as you loved me. Please, be at peace, knowing that nothing was ever your fault. I give you each compassion for your kin, mates or clan mates."

After the last shoot of pain, Spiderfang looked up to see the cat he was waiting for the whole night. Icywind stepped forward and

looked at all of them with a smile.

"I wish you all, the very best. Thank you Cinderstorm for your friendship, and thank you Spiderfang for your love. Don't fret, because I'll still be here when you arrive Spiderfang, I promise. With this next life, I give you each the gift of loyalty."

The last shoot of pain, Spiderdang felt of fiery pain before rising to face the last cat. Redstar stood before them, tall and symbolic. None of the deputies felt like muttering anything. They had all let their leaders down.

"I'm sorry it had to be like this, especially for you Spiderfang. But destiny never changes. I hope that in this case, Thunderstar's Destiny is not to destroy the clan system and murder everyone we love. So my gift to you, is that your clans will survive in some fashion, according to your strength. As long as you resist, you shall survive. And one last thing, don't worry about revenge. Karma will come, in one form or another. May LightClan be with you, Shadowstar, Cinderstar and Spiderstar."

Again, sorry for the disturbing matter that was contained in this chapter.

Thank you for reading.

Now, CaveClan and MountainClan need new deputies. I have picked the candidates according to criteria, wattpader and realism, you vote for your favorite deputy pick, for each clan.

CaveClan:

Frostycloud- she has been with the clans from the start. She was Shymask's apprentice and is the most hard working she cat among the clans to date.

Shymask- this she cat is dedicated, has been a mother and a leader. She's not wanting to be leader again, but would be happy to help lead her clan in the right direction in the meantime. She's got lives and wisdom to share.

Darkomen- a recent CaveClan Tom, who was a good friend to Coldstar after Darktide's death. He's got ideas and age's experience.

MountainClan:

Raspyhowl- he's been a young and influential Tom in the building of the clans. From the start, he's been taught by the best and is aware of dangers, that face the clans, and traditions that need to be kept.

Jaggedclaw- also an early MountainClan member, he's been nothing but optimistic, loyal and great to the apprentices. He's also handsome and available for any she cat! (Cough cough Ivysong.)

Flamespirit- a young, energetic bundle of ginger fur! She's grown up in MountainClan and even found the love of her life there. She's super eager and really wants to lead as her ancestors did.

Feathershade- formerly a kittypet, this she cat has developed a lot over the duration of our story. Her brother Spiderstar may need her by his side.

Swiftfawn- a lot like Frostycloud, she's been nothing but a loyal worker bee. She's never quite put her own intentions or ambitions for the clan, but is she the thing MountainClan needs?

Vote for deputies in the comments. Please everyone, do so. Thank you.

Chapter 51

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Spiderstar- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Deputy: Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Morningpoppy- a yellow tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. She has flame colored ears and black paws.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Stormchaser

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Spiderstar

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. Expecting Raspyhowl's kits.

Kits:
Eaglekit- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. 2 moons.

Cherrykit- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. 2 moons.

Rustkit- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. 2 moons.

Firekit- a ginger-orange furred Tom with violet eyes. 2 moons.

Robinkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Olivekit- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 2 moons.

Crimsonkit- a pure white she cat with one red paw. 2 moons.

Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 3 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 3 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 3 moons.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 3 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 3 moons.

Twanykit- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. 3 moons.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. She is 100 moons and grandmother to Jaggedclaw and Riverpaw.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Expecting Stormchaser's kits.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Queen:
Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. Kits: Nightkit (she cat), Blazekit (she cat), and Flarekit (Tom)

Kits:
Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. 1 moon.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. 1 moon.

StormClan-

Leaders: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputies: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Medicine cat: Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green

eyes with yellow flecks.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Lotusfoot- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail.

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.

Queen of the Clan:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Queens:
Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Kits: Hollowkit (she cat), Oakkit (Tom), Tabbykit (she cat), and Strikingkit (Tom)

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Kits: Steelkit (tom), Bluekit (she cat), Snakekit (Tom), and Moonkit (Tom).

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Kits: Hailkit (Tom), Swiftkit (Tom), and Pebblekit (Tom)

Kits:
Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 2 moons.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 2 moons.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 2 moons.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. 47 moons.

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful.

Apprentices:
Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden

eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Otterpaw- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. Mentor: Rockfall

Lightningpaw- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. Mentor: Maplewood

Kits:
Finchkit- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. 3 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 3 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 3 moons.

Dawnkit- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes.

Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 4 moons.

Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. 6 moons.

Leopardkit- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. 6 moons.

Clanless cats:

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

"Are we almost there?" Twanykit sighed as he trudged along his little paws. His mother, Morningpoppy glanced down at him with sympathetic eyes. The journey had been long, and relentless, but

she still hoped for the best.

"Just hang in there, Twanykit. Why don't you ask Beestorm about our ancestors?" Morningpoppy suggested. Twanykit nodded his head in agreement before skipping over to the Tom. They had been traveling in a group for days. It consisted of Willowbreeze, a former kittypet that was now an elder, Beestorm, a former warrior wanting to start over, Morningpoppy and Twanykit, a she cat who had no mate or clan, Dawnkit, a she kit of four moons who had come along, Cougarkit, another kit trying to find a home, and Lightningpaw, another former clan cat who wanted to start over. They only knew to follow the highest mountain, and they would soon find abundant land around a large lake.

"Our ancestors were the big great cats. Warrior blood comes straight from the beast known as Lions, Tigers, Leopards, Cheetahs, Cougars and.."

"Hey! That's what I'm named after! I'm a cougar!" Cougarkit shouted, before letting out a growl. Dawnkit laughed and batted him on the muzzle.

"You're not a big cat!"

"But I've got the heart of one!"

"No you don't!"

"Yes I do!"

"No you don't!"

"I think, you all have the heart of our ancestors. Maybe more, if you isn't bicker so much," Willowbreeze snapped with a smirk. Twanykit giggled and trotted over to her side.

"Did you have any kits, Willowbreeze?"

"I did. I had seven litters... only two of them joined the clans however.."

"Wow."

"But I do have grandchildren in the clans. Last time I visited our family's barn, they told me Jaggedclaw and Riverpaw had gone off to join the clans," Willowbreeze remarked. Twanykit smiled and felt his paws tingle with excitement. He hope there were lots of friends to play with at their new home.

After many more steps of walking, Beestorm finally lifted his nose, and smelled many potent clan scents. He gazed over at the surrounding forest, and didn't see any cats, though it was evident that this was their territory.

"We're almost there!" Beestorm called out to the rest of the party, behind him. The kits instantly perked up and darted over to him in excitement.

"Really! Really!" Cougarkit asked.

"Yes. But you have to be quiet. There could be dangerous cats here."

"What'd you mean? Clan cats are awesome right?"

"Not all of them are awesome. We have to find the right ones, okay?" Beestorm requested quietly. Cougarkit and Dawnkit nodded silently, while Twanykit turned to his mother.

"We'll be okay, right mommy? Would they hurt us?" He asked. Twanykit hadn't know many mean things, being only three moons. The closest he got to a dangerous was the white dog that used to bother his old home. It was a fluffy pest, but not able to kill them.

Before she could answer, Beestorm glanced back at them in alarm, and Morningpoppy grabbed Twanykit by the scruff and the other kits followed Lightningpaw, who took off at Beestorm's flick of the tail.

In a flash, two cats burst from the trees and were amongst the group. One, was panting profusely while the other glanced back in the direction from which they came.

"Did you lose them?" The black Tom asked, flashing his serious blue eyed gaze. The Bengal she cat hissed and sniffed the air.

"No! They're getting faster.. there must be less food. Okay let's go, Shadow!" The grey she cat sad before coming face to face with the group.

"Oh no.."

"We can't just leave them..."

"Gem, it's our lives or theirs. Let's go!"

"Wait. We could always.." Gem began with a hopeful glance, while Shadow spat bluntly.

"Never! We can't go back!" Shadow hissed but Gem glanced at then closely.

"No. We can. We'll take them to MountainClan and get out! It'll be quick and easy, none of this dung from StormClan.."

Before Shadow could argue, howls came from the other direction, causing the two to dart off. The patrol had no choice but to follow.

Sadly, Lightningpaw, Dawnkit and Cougarkit could not keep up, and soon became lost. The other managed to follow the two strange cats until the howls disappeared behind them, and cars appeared in front of them.

"Shadowpaw? Is that you?" A grey and blue she cat asked, while he glanced away purposefully.

"These cats were being chased by StormClan.. they need asylum," Gem lied with a convincing air to her.

"Fine. Brinepaw, go back and find Spiderstar. We've got loyalty to test," a light brown she cat said.

"Now listen, we've traveled miles to get here. Could we have a bit of rest!"

"What about my son?" Morningpoppy added on, glancing down at Twanykit.

"You don't understand! If you want rest, get out! But if you want a true clan, you can get over here now, before they kill that kit.."

"What!"

"Go. They're coming, past the border. Swiftfawn, I'll hold up the back," Gem said sternly before glaring back. The others darted forward, following Brinepaw and Swiftfawn.

Shadow ended up turning, and joking Gem at the back. Willowbreeze was hastily limping, trying to keep up with the younger of the group. They managed to make it into the camp. But right after, an enemy patrol of eight cats burst through the trees, and into MountainClan camp.

Gem immediately turned and caught Lostpath in her claws before throwing him onto the ground. Shadow wouldn't leave his half sister, so he jetted toward Lostpath and posed a real threat. Gem, small and quick, wasn't the type to end an enemy. But her half brother, Shadow, could easily take down the Tom his size.

Meanwhile Swiftfawn evaded Sprucestrike's powerful paws, and tripped him using the roots of the leader's tree. Sprucestrike fell forward, but being a viscous fighter, immediately sprung forward and clawed at her hunches. The minor cuts made her hiss and retaliate with a nasty bite to Spurcestrike's neck. He kicked up his hind leg, and batted her fangs away.

Poisonberry quarreled with Raspyhowl while Jaggedclaw nipped at Tigerstorm's tail. The most stoic battle happened to be between Cloudfire and Earthfoot. The feisty she cat was defending the nursery, while Earthfoot was trying to get in. Yet, it didn't occur to anyone that it was all a distraction.

Dapplestone, who came in behind the others, slipped through the camp easily, before entering the nursery without any struggle. Many kits appeared to her, and she grinned as she recognized her own. It was what the patrol had came for, and they didn't spare any expense.

"Mummy!" Olivekit squealed at her, but Dapplestone didn't waste

anytime.

"Eaglekit, Firekit, Rustkit, and Robinkit, you're all coming with me. Girls, Earthfoot will escort you once the Warriors have been dealt with.."

"You're here to take us away!" Crimsonkit accused with a pouty face. The others hissed, while Spiderstar's kits stuck to themselves, hoping she wouldn't harm them.

"She sent away Redstar," Echokit murmured sadly.

"You're a dumb-butt!" Rustkit spat, before giggling at the newfound word.

"What's a butt?" Tearkit asked.

"I don't know, Bushpaw told it to me."

Impatient, knowing her forces could be dying, she could snagged onto Crimsonkit. Dapplestone's claws raked over the small kit's eye, accidentally, and blood poured onto her white fur, staining it for good. Crimsonkit screamed in pain, but Dapplestone stayed on task, holding her firmly to the ground.

"Come with me, boys.. or your sister will die," Dapplestone threatened pushing Crimsonkit to the floor. She increased the pressure making her squeal once again, and her brothers stepped forward.

"Stop mummy.. please," Olivekit squealed before she started sobbing.

"We'll come with you.." Rustkit said quickly, and Dapplestone let go of her.

"All of you boys, come with me. Cherrykit, you may come also, *and*... you three... Spiderstar's sons. You must also come with us, or I'll make sure your little sisters won't become apprentices... ever..."

Ashkit was about to protest, but Bonekit silently nodded his head glancing to the others. Their silent glances were enough convincing,

and Dapplestone left with them, leaving Crimsonkit, bleeding out on the nursery floor.

After Dapplestone left with the toms, her forces left also. MountainClan was not left in ruins, but once again, in sorrow. Spiderstar had just returned then, to behold what had happened.

"I knew this would happen. Call the patrols, we've got clan business to attend to," Spiderstar sighed as he met, Jaggedclaw in the center of camp.

"Daddy! Daddy.. she hurt Crimsonkit!" Tearkit called out as she rushed into then center of camp. He glanced toward her then toward the medicine cat den.

"Where's Bushpaw? Dammit!"

"He's with Blitzpaw and Tallpaw.. I can help!" Olivekit said rushing toward the stores of herbs. Spiderstar sighed.

"Horsetail is out with Raspyhowl.. Shadowpaw, what in the mutt's name are you doing here?"

"Saving these cats. And it's *Shadow*, now.. And this is *Gem*."

"Just because you take off your 'paw', doesn't make your name cool," Thornpaw smirked as she overheard their discussion. She had been battling but had only now, recognized her kin. "Wow, I didn't know she was still alive.. Fairpaw wouldn't shut up about you, last time I saw him. Word on the border, is that you two were banished."

"Yeah, for being *illegitimate*," Gem snapped in annoyance. The whole situation was a fiasco, and she knew her family was truly, out of their minds.

"Then I just VoidClan, and now, no one wants me!" Shadow exasperated.

"At least you got to know your mother.. both my parents are dead to me," Gem muttered under her breath. Thornpaw took a breath and rolled her eyes.

"Well that's nice and all. My mother killed my mentor, so... stop whining," Thornpaw said as another patrol made it back.

Tallpaw, Riverpaw, Blitzpaw and Bushpaw had all returned, each carrying something. The warrior apprentices were carrying prey while Bushpaw carried unknown herbs which he was planning to test the abilities of, soon. They exchanged urgent and worried glanced until Bushpaw noticed Gem. His sister barely recognized him, but Bushpaw hadn't stopped thinking about how she was fairing the past noon.

"Gempaw! You came back! Did you come for the purple root, too?"

"I'm sorry, do I know you?"

"I'm Bushpaw, your brother."

"I have no family. My family wouldn't have left me to rot," she hissed before turning off and toward the northern exit of camp.

"Wait! Where are you going?" Bushpaw asked in a scramble. *Why is she acting this way? Did I do something?* He worried as he followed her out.

"Shadow and I are rogues now. Our only purpose in life, is to bring StormClan to an end. Unless anyone from MountainClan can join us, we're moving onto CaveClan," she explained simply. Now, it made sense to him. Her rugged and unkept fur, and the many scars and unkept cuts must've been from battles with StormClan.

"Gempa.. Gem, are you sure killing is a good idea? Maybe they just need a tension reliever... I find these soothing leaves that smell amazing and I think Thunderstar could-."

"You still don't get it? No, of course not. You're too immature and stuck in the past... Vulturestar murdered our mother, Shadow's mother, and Thornpaw's father. I can't fathom how many cats Thunderstar has killed by himself. Don't you see, Bushpaw! This has to stop. Now."

"You're a murderer... just like dad.."

"Goodbye, Bushpaw," Gem finished sternly before she set off toward MountainClan. She beckoned Shadow to come, but he wasn't so sure anymore that CaveClan would be a better ally.

"Shadowpaw, don't go. You can stay here! MountainClan needs all the friends we can get," Brinepaw said, stopping him in his tracks. It was obvious that Shadow saw Brinepaw as a close friend. When he was in MountainClan, she had always treated him equally and fairly while others prejudged him. She was a great friend.

"No. I'm sorry, but my place is with my sister and stopping our father. I don't know if I'll ever live a clan cat's life again," he said following Gem out of camp. Brinepaw followed him however, in a valiant effort to persuade him to stay.

"Don't say that.. without clan life there's..."

"There's opportunity, and no consequences that fall on the group, only the individual. We may stop by again, in the meantime, watch out for StormClan," Shadow finally said before speeding off after Gem. Out of the camp, they continued their trek northeast to CaveClan.

Meanwhile, back at camp, MountainClan tried to reclaim order. The new cats were shown to their dens, Jaggedclaw were reunited with their grandmother, and Crimsonkit was delicately treated and was now sleeping peacefully. Although her injury was tragic, she was alive. And in the leader's oak, Spiderstar and his deputy, Jaggedclaw, discussed the recent turmoil. The leader and Jaggedclaw lay calmly, while Horsetail paws back and forth hastily.

"They've got our kits now. We can't waste Warriors to save them. Everything is falling apart.."

"This is our first attack in moon. I say, that's pretty good considering what they could've done," Spiderstar said optimistically.

"Those are your kits for LightClan's sake, Spiderstar! Are you not furious!"

"Of course I am!" He shouted, shooting to his paws. "But the clan is

my responsibility, now. She only took my sons for leverage, so they're not going to waste their leverage. It'd be stupid to kill them."

"He's right, Horsetail. Besides, they may come back to MountainClan on their own," Jaggedclaw added on. The elder medicine cat, was not convinced and became very frustrated.

"Does no one understand the dilemma we face? Thunderstar, the most tyrannical, manipulative, and dominating powers the clans have ever known, is at our tails... He will take no chances. He will slaughter anyone who gets in his way, or make them face the it another way. Your kits will die!"

"Shut up!" Spiderstar spat before whipping around, to turn his back to him. He stared his paws as he took in heavy breathes. Jaggedclaw, disturbed by the tension, was eager to know Horsetail's rage.

"What did he ever do to you?"

"No, Jaggedclaw. It's none of our..."

"No. I'll tell you," Horsetail interrupted glancing up with beady eyes. "I'll tell you what that monster did to my *family*... my *clan*... I grew up under the leadership of Graystar. My mother was leader before Graystar, she passed her last life giving birth to my litter. Sadly, there were no other she cats to nurse us, and kits that young cannot digest the meat of prey. My brothers and sisters, slowly died. I was the only one to survive when the medicine cat fed me basic edible herbs. That's when I knew I wanted to be a medicine cat. I wanted to save lives." Horsetail stopped for a few moments, grinning at his words, before he continued.

"Everything was great, until I was well into being a medicine cat... Well, Graystar did something horrible. His mate, Sorrelfoot, wasn't fond of him. He yearned for a younger and more vivacious she cat, and he found that in a rogue named, Colette. She bore him only one son. Although the son was everything Graystar could hope for, his mate, Sorrelfoot, through him into madness. She convinced him only their first litter were worthy of fathering. And only they could be real warriors, and had him install a ridiculous monarchy system

to SkyClan's leadership... Only the most fit child, preferably first born, of the Leader could be heir to leadership."

"That's ridiculous. Blood provides no talent in leadership.."

"Well, Graystar and his descendants believed it did. And so, the clan continued to go down hill. Colette, the rogue, was tried and murdered for adultery. But of course, it was corrupt and false accusation, for she only loved. Her death, was he first straw, for many of the clan.."

"The child.."

"Ah yes. And who else could this child be, but Thunderstar himself. But contrary to other's belief, his early life was very hard. His father abused him, mocked him, and had many of the clan shun him. His half siblings, were unnaturally cruel to him. Thunderstar came in so often, and I treated his wounds so frequent that he should've died before he became a warrior..."

"But?"

"Something happened. Sorrelfoot passed of white cough and Graystar came to his senses. He finally made his first born son a warrior, Thunderstrike. Graystar and tried his best to mend the past mistakes. However, the damage had been done. As the deputy wanted to retire, it was time for him to choose the new heir. It would be his half brother or his sister. Thunderstrike was finished with the waiting. He drowned his sister, and unknowingly killed her unborn kits. Then he cornered his brother and brutally cut him up. Both their bodies were found, mourned and buried. Graystar had no idea when he made Thunderstrike deputy, he would be sentencing himself to death."

"Horsetail... Did he.."

"The next moon, his father was dead. No one suspected Thunderstar, except for me. I was always nice, always observant, the only one who never did him any harm, but when I confronted him, he forgot all that. He forgot everything I had done for him. He threatened me but said I'd have one more chance. If I disobeyed his

code however, I'd be exiled," Horsetail said coming to an abrupt stop. Spiderstar and Jaggedclaw pleaded for more with their silent eyes, and Horsetail obliged.

"I fell in love with a she cat. A tortoiseshell named Turtlefur. She gave us four kits. Two toms and two she cats. At the time, Thunderstar began training Tom kits too early, so Turtlefur couldn't raise the toms in SkyClan, especially without a known father. So she had a friend take the two toms to a clan farther away, called PureClan. I never know what happened to them.

The she cats however... Turtlefur wouldn't expose I was the father, which infuriated Thunderstar. But she stayed strong. Somehow, he discovered. Olivekit, one of my daughters, died while playing by the creek. They claimed it was a tragic accident, that a dog came by, but when I examined the wounds, they were far too similar... It was a warning.

My paranoid state continued, as Turtlefur, my beloved love, was found on the border. Supposedly killed by a fox. My last daughter, was the last one left. The last family I had left on this earth..."

"No! You turned yourself in!"

"Not quite. I met Thunderstar in secret. I confessed how I was the father, and I begged him to spare her life... And he told me the most heinous resolution... I would be exiled, and while I was away, I would live knowing my daughter would be made his apprentice, then he would take her for his mate, and she would do whatever his heart desired, including killing, me."

"Dapplestone. Dapplestone is your daughter?"

"I afraid so."

Phew! So relieved to get that plot point out there. Who was shocked?

R.I.P. OAKSTRIPE

We forgot your eulogy last chapter, so here we go. You're a loyal, sturdy, Tom who should be honored to have served DarkClan the way you did.

Perhaps in your kits, your legacy shall live on.

Another announcement, final entry will be published very soon. Thank you.

Chapter 52

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Spiderstar- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Deputy: Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Medicinecat:

Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Apprentice:

Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Morningpoppy- a yellow tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. She

has flame colored ears and black paws.

Apprentices:

Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Stormchaser

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Spiderstar

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. Expecting Raspyhowl's kits.

Kits:

Olivekit- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 2 moons.

Crimsonkit- a pure white she cat with one red paw. 2 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 3 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 3 moons.

Tawnykit- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a

yellow tail. 3 moons.

Elder:

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. She is 100 moons and grandmother to Jaggedclaw and Riverpaw.

--

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Expecting Stormchaser's kits.

Medicine cat:

Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Apprentices:

Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Queen:

Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. Kits: Nightkit (she cat), Blazekit (she cat), and Flarekit (Tom)

Kits:

Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. 1 moon.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. 1 moon.

--

StormClan-

Leaders: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputies: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Medicine cat: Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Lotusfoot- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail.

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.

Queen of the Clan:

Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Queens:

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Kits: Hollowkit (she cat), Oakkit (Tom), Tabbykit (she cat), and Strikingkit (Tom)

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Kits: Steelkit (tom), Bluekit (she cat), Snakekit (Tom), and Moonkit (Tom).

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Kits: Hailkit (Tom), Swiftkit (Tom), and Pebblekit (Tom)

Kits:

Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 3 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 3 moons.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 3 moons.

Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 2 moons.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 2 moons.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 2 moons.

Eaglekit- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. 2 moons.

Cherrykit- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. 2 moons.

Rustkit- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. 2 moons.

Firekit- a ginger-orange furred Tom with violet eyes. 2 moons.

Robinkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Elder:

Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

--

LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. 47 moons.

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful.

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue.

Apprentices:

Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Otterpaw- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. Mentor: Rockfall

Lightningpaw- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. Mentor: Maplewood

Kits:

Finchkit- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. 3 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 3 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 3 moons.

Dawnkit- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. 4 moons.

Cougarkit- a dusty furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. 5 moons.

Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes

and one blue eye. 4 moons.

Zodiac- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. 6 moons.

Leopardkit- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. 6 moons.

Clanless cats:

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

"Fairpaw, could you please play with us? Flarekit, Blazekit, and Nightkit are too busy playing Mossball and, we're too tiny," Duskkit squeaked with wide blue eyes. Fairpaw smiled and glanced toward her.

"I'm sorry, but I promised I would go on patrol with Palepaw and Cinderstar... but, I think Oceanpaw an Timberpaw would tell you some stories. You know, they've traveled the world!" Fairpaw suggested. He admired his other apprentices. They had seen the world and its splendor, but he'd never seen anything except the forest he lived in. He was born into CaveClan and he would die in CaveClan.

"Fairpaw's right! I'm seen the biggest animals ever! I even ran away from a Sharptooth once..."

"Tell me more!" Duskkit begged.

"Alright.."

"Come on, Fairpaw!" Palepaw called out from the entrance. Cinderstar was also waiting, so he wasted no time.

"Bye!"

"Bye Fairpaw!"

After he joined the others, they took off east toward the dense forest of birches. The forest was young, and the trees' centers were thin and the oak was white speckled with black marks. Fairpaw loved hunting in the particular forest for the density of it. One had to be quick while chasing prey, or they could crash into a tree.

"What do you smell?" Cinderstar questioned as mentors do. The two apprentices didn't quite realize they were facing pre-evaluations for their Warrior-ship. Although they were young, Cinderstar felt confident in their ability to carry on the duties of Warriors.

"Birds. A flock of birds," Palepaw reported, beating Fairpaw to it. Ever since the battle, Fairpaw wasn't feeling his normal self. He couldn't stop thinking about Gempaw and Twistedfoot. How could he hate me that much? And why didn't Gempaw kill me, but she killed Puddlepaw?

"Fairpaw, are you okay? I asked you a question."

"Sorry Cinderstar. Yeah I'm fine. I think it's a flock of Wrens."

"Good. Now both of you, go hunt. I'll watch," his mentor said before leaping into the canopy of the trees.

"You can talk to me, if you're ever down," Palepaw assured him with a smile.

"Thanks. Same here," Fairpaw replied before he set off. Since the scent was already fresh, he trotted low to the ground before hearing the tiny chirps and spotting the group of wrens. They pecked the ground eagerly, unearthing the tiny insects that lay beneath the dirt.

When he spotted his target, he lowered himself evening more to the ground, scrunching his long legs. Slowly lifting his paws, he continued prowling forward, not rushing anything. Palepaw, however, pounced earlier. The flock screeched and as Fairpaw's target turned his head, he shot forward with claws and fangs out stretched.

"I'm impressed. I was sure the flock would provide trouble for one of you, but you proved me wrong. But I'd watch your timing, Palepaw. I know you've never lost a catch, but taking extra precautions is never a fault," Cinderstar explained after dropping from the trees. Both apprentices were satisfied and slowly headed back with Cinderstar.

As they headed back, everything seemed well, until Cinderstar smelled something they didn't. The gray furred Tom shot toward the camp and the apprentices followed cautiously. *Is it StormClan? No... Silverpaw...* Palepaw worried silently before they shot through the camp entrance.

Two cats sat before Shymask who glanced them over suspiciously. Birchshiver, a former PureClan warrior, was beside her protectively.

"What're you doing on CaveClan territory?" Cinderstar immediately questioned as he stepped into the cave. Before Shymask was a ragged black furred Tom and a petit gray Bengal she cat. They turned their eyes to Cinderstar and Fairpaw stopped in shock.

"Gempaw?"

"Cinderstar, we need to speak with you," Shadow said boldly, trying not to pose intimidation. But it was hard for him, since he was grown up and the size of Cinderstar.

"Wait... she killed Puddlepaw," Oceanpaw accused with hateful eyes. Timberpaw hissed and both of them started stepping forward but Shadow hissed.

"Yeah I did. So what? It was war. One we're still fighting.."

"Except you're not on our side," Fairpaw cornered with a fierce glare. She turned toward him and sighed.

"We were banished. Now, the StormClan patrols keep chasing us," Shadow explained briefly but the others scoffed.

"Why is that our problem?" Frostycloud snapped with little care for the two rogues. If they would've stayed loyal to the right cats, they would've never been in this situation.

"Because their first target will be you, or LakeClan. MountainClan has Spiderstar," Gem said with a serious glance. Words on borders, Twistedfoot's insight and Graystar were enough sources to know majority of Thunderstar's plans.

"And no disrespect Cinderstar, but they don't feel threatened by you or Shadowstar," Shadow smirked, taking pride in insulting Cinderstar. He didn't hate him personally, just authority in general.

"Even if you were strong enough to face Thunderstar, you'd still have Vulturestar to worry about. He's got his son wrapped around his toes," Gem added on the grim realization.

"CaveClan will never last out."

"No. You're wrong, *kit*... We're more battle ready then the other clans..."

"Watch, Cinderstar. They'll be encroaching on your territory or LakeClan's soon."

"Get out."

"No.. We need a safe territory to stay. You don't touch StormClan territory so they won't know we're here. If we go to MountainClan, that could only make everything worse. Same with LakeClan," Gem explained with a worried expression. Shadow shut his mouth, realizing his mistake of picking on Cinderstar.

"Perhaps. You can stay in one of the caverns behind the waterfall, to the northeast of our territory. But you're not allowed to leave unless it's for good."

"No way!"

"We accept, gratefully, Cinderstar," Gem quickly said cutting her brother off. He scowled but didn't argue with her.

"Great. Darkomen and Earthpaw will show you there."

Meanwhile, along one of the many streams of Lakeclan, Silverfeather and Dovepool were testing their apprentices. Lightpaw

was hovering on a dangerously wobbly rock trying to scoop out a fish. The two sisters watched silently in the brush as the grey she-cat's eyes lit up. In a flash, her paw dove into the water with a loud splash. A silver blur flipped through the air, as Lightpaw shrieked as her rock perch lurched forward. A loud splash resounded immediately.

"Lightpaw! Are you okay?" Dovepool shot to the bank glancing around for her apprentice. With a loud gasp Lightpaw surfaced spitting water out of her mouth. Dovepool broke into a smile and Silverfeather broke into a laugh.

As Lightpaw scrambled onto the bank, a silver and blue Bengal she-cat trotted towards then holding a fish proudly. Lightpaw eyed Mistypaw irritatedly. She dropped the fish in front of Lightpaw. "I grabbed your catch when you decided to take a swim," Mistypaw purred failing at hiding her amusement.

Lightpaw narrowed her eyes and flicked water at Mistypaw with her tail. Silverfeather coughed in her throat and the apprentices turned to her. "Since you two are so energetic, we're going to do a battle session with Otterpaw. Dovepool, Rockfall, and I won't help though. It'll just be you two against Otterpaw."

The young she-cats glanced at each other smirking. The reeds rustled and a dark brown tom bolted toward the four cats. Soon after the Lakeclan deputy picked his way through the muddy bank. When he reached his apprentice, Rockfall stood shaking out his paws grumpily.

"We're going to do the battle session, is that alright?" Dovepool asked Rockfall. He nodded distractedly as he pulled a pebble from his toes.

"That's fine, I have to get back to camp anyway. I promised Winterkit I'd teach her the hunting crouch."

"Can we go now?" Lightpaw muttered in a false whine. Dovepool glared at her apprentice and Lightpaw cut off her whimper.

Otterpaw chuckled and dashed away, followed quickly by the other

two apprentices. Silverfeather and Dovepool shrugged and melted into the grass to stay hidden from the younger cats, while Rockfall headed back to camp.

"So how will we beat him?" Lightpaw panted as she sprinted after Otterpaw.

Mistypaw drew a deep breath. "There's two of us so we could just ambush him. That way we would get the element of surprise, too. We can beat him quickly after that."

Lightpaw nodded in agreement and the two she-cats slowed to a trot. "I think we should stay away from the water. He's the best swimmer and he's always hanging around there so there's no way we can surprise him in his bro cave area."

Mistypaw nodded. "We need to lure him towards us...we could kill a vole and he'd probably come running for a free meal. When he's close enough, we pounce!"

Lightpaw tipped her head slightly to the side. "But isn't Rockfall against us killing prey unless it's for food. Besides, we can't eat until the older cats have eaten first.."

"Dang, someone turned goodie good," the silver-blue apprentice shouldered her friend. "Don't worry we can give it our mentors when we're done. We'll show them that not only did we beat Otterpaw, but it was so easy we went hunting, too."

Lightpaw smirked and ran off. "I'm going to find the place, so you just hunt!"

Mistypaw nodded and dropped into her hunting crouch. After skirting a few bushes the mouse scent struck her nose and she quickened toward it. A few paces away the brown rodent nibbled on a leaf. Building up momentum she tucked her crouch tighter. Then she pounced forward onto the mouse and nipped its neck swiftly. When she looked up a black tom stared back.

The mouse dropped from Mistypaw's mouth before she regained herself. Then she stood up and confronted the tom. "What are you

doing on my territory?" She asked but her voice cracked.

The tom narrowed his eyes inquisitively. "I and two kits came a long way. We were hoping to join."

"Sorry, but I don't exactly see any kits right now," Mistypaw drawled sarcastically as she moved her head around to look behind the tom.

"Cougarkit! Dawnkit! You guys have to keep up," the tom called and a dusty furred Tom kit and a golden she kit scrambled out of the reeds. Then the tom turned his attention back to the she-cat expectantly.

"We got stuck in the mud!"

"Yeah, there's a lot of water."

"Alright follow me," Mistypaw said hesitantly. Bringing a tom and kits into the camp was nothing close to a brilliant idea, but it was the right thing to do. "My name is Mistypaw by the way, and this is Lakeclan."

The tom nodded and the three began trotting back to where Mistypaw left her mentors. "I'm Lightningpaw, and this is Cougarkit and Dawnkit."

Mistypaw let out a laugh when Otterpaw barged through the grass toward the cats. "Where were you? I got Lightpaw, she walked right into me. Too easy," Otterpaw stated proudly then realized there were more cats. His eyes widened nervously.

"This is Lightningpaw, Cougarkit and Dawnkit. And this is Otterpaw. I'm taking them to camp, but can you run ahead to tell Shadowstar?" Mistypaw explained. Otterpaw nodded then dashed away kicking up mud in his wake.

"Let's hurry," Mistypaw urged and the three quickened toward camp.

When they entered, Shadowstar was waiting with Otterpaw sitting next to his mentor close by. Hiddencreek and Maplewood, both new

Warriors, were sharing a fish in camp. Rockfall was teaching Winterkit and a few others some hunting technique.

"New kits! They're our age!" Finchkit called out, bounding toward them. Toadkit and Blackkit followed with big smiles. They loved when there were many playmates.

"They're not clan mates yet. Why have you come?" Shadowstar asked. Her voice echoes over camp signaling the others to gather. Lightningpaw stepped forward cautiously.

"We came with another group, but StormClan cats chased us here. We promise we don't want to harm you. We just want to join the clans."

"Very well. How many moons are you each?"

"I'm 9 moons," Lightningpaw said and the other apprentices exchanged glances. He was a bit younger, but he was taller and more lanky.

"I'm 5 moons!" Cougarkit cheered.

"And I'm 4!" Dawnkit said, trying to stand taller then him.

"Lightingpaw, do you promise to uphold LakeClan's law, and live under LightClan?" Shadowstar asked in ceremonial tradition.

"I do," he replied with a nod.

"Then you shall be a LakeClan apprentice. Your mentor will be Maplewood. He is new to LakeClan but has been a warrior for many moons. I trust he will pass on his skills to you. Dawnkit and Cougarkit are not old enough to become apprentices, in LakeClan law, but there are cats that are. Zodiac and Leopardkit, step forward."

The two she cats smiled at their names and stepped forward. Both had been through tough times in VoidClan, but were now ready to become apprentices. The two best friends were happy to share the highlight of their lives in LakeClan.

"Leopardkit and Zodiac do you promise to uphold the LakeClan code and live under LightClan?"

"I do!" She said with inflection and a grin. Shadowstar smiled back at her charisma.

"I do," Zodiac also said, but with a calmer and more composed nature.

"Then from this day forward, you shall be known as Leopardpaw. Your mentor will be Hiddencreek. He has only been with us for half a moon, but I trust in his skills," Shadowstar said. As in tradition the two cats touched noses. Next she turned to Zodiac.

The black furred she cat had been through horrible things. Yet, she had a powerful gift in which LightClan had informed her of. The she cat could use her gifts for good, or bad. But only time could tell.

"From this day forward you shall be know as Zodiacpaw. I shall be your mentor, since currently there are no other able Warriors and I feel I can teach you well."

Zodiacpaw smiled brightly and Leopardpaw also exchanged an excited expression with her friend. After the ceremony, the clan took part in a feast.

"So you brought two cats but couldn't even hunt a mouse?" Lightpaw joked as she trotted over to her friend. Mistypaw's jaw almost dropped. *How could I be so stupid!*

"I forgot the mouse!"

Lightpaw laughed, then threw Mistypaw's prey to her paws. "Payback for grabbing my fish."

The two apprentices laughed as Otterpaw and Lightningpaw walked over. He glanced at the laughing she-cats. "So are you laughing about your epic loss today or the fact you can't catch a mouse without completely mutilating it?"

Lightpaw pushed Otterpaw roughly and he tumbled to the mud. Before he could regain his footing Blackkit and Toadkit scrambled

over excitedly and engulfed the brown apprentice with kitten fluff.

"Wow, I didn't know you guys were so competitive," Lightningpaw remarked with a grin.

"Nah. We just like the mud!"

I love LakeClan.

So, @ WildUntilTheEnd wrote the section about LakeClan and she did awesome! If you guys want to write a section, just talk to me!

And...
I need some of you to write reviews for this story. Those who do can get their name on this book's cover.

All you need to do, is write a funny, mysterious, serious, romantic, or fan-girl review about this story so far.

Let me know if you're up for either!

And...
Once you've entered, please don't change your username without telling me. Then I have to hunt you down to ask about your cat.

Chapter 53

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Spiderstar- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Deputy: Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Morningpoppy- a yellow tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. She has flame colored ears and black paws.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Stormchaser

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Spiderstar

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. Expecting Raspyhowl's kits.

Kits:
Olivekit- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 2 moons.

Crimsonkit- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. 2 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 3 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 3 moons.

Tawnykit- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. 3 moons.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. She is 100 moons and grandmother to Jaggedclaw and Riverpaw.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Expecting Stormchaser's kits.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Queen:
Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. Kits: Nightkit (she cat), Blazekit (she cat), and Flarekit (Tom)

Kits:
Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. 1 moon.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. 1 moon.

StormClan-

Leaders: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputies: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Medicine cat: Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her

paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Lotusfoot- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are

always visible.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail.

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.

Queen of the Clan:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Queens:
Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Kits: Hollowkit (she cat), Oakkit (Tom), Tabbykit (she cat), and Strikingkit (Tom)

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Kits: Steelkit (tom), Bluekit (she cat), Snakekit (Tom), and Moonkit (Tom).

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Kits: Hailkit (Tom), Swiftkit (Tom), and Pebblekit (Tom)

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 3 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 3 moons.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 3 moons.

Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 2 moons.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 2 moons.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 2 moons.

Eaglekit- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. 2 moons.

Cherrykit- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. 2 moons.

Rustkit- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. 2 moons.

Firekit- a ginger-orange furred Tom with violet eyes. 2 moons.

Robinkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes. 47 moons.

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful.

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One

eye is green the other eye is pale blue.

Apprentices:

Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Otterpaw- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. Mentor: Rockfall

Lightningpaw- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. Mentor: Maplewood

Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. Mentor: Hiddencreek

Kits:
Finchkit- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. 3 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 3 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 3 moons.

Dawnkit- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. 4 moons.

Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 4 moons.

Cougarkit- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. 5 moons.

Clanless cats:

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Near the east portion of the Lake, mates enjoyed the weather for hunting. The territory was slightly inconvenient, because of the muddy Lake's edge, but Dapplestone fancied herself for trying to swim. Oddly enough, Thunderstar was happy doing anything with her. He most looked forward to their alone time as they could discuss clan business.

"What are you thinking about, love?" Dapplestone stood joint-high in water, her eyes on her mate. She had never been in water before, and was trying to get used to the feeling. "You look troubled."

Thunderstar, who was picking apart a squirrel onshore, scoffed. "It's the rogues, Gem and Shadow. I think they're causing trouble again... but more then usual." He grew bored of the squirrel, and cast it aside. Still, it left a smear of blood on the rocks.

"How could they know? They were outcast a moon ago..."

"Do not forget. Gem was Vulturestar's favorite," Thunderstar corrected. "I know how you feel about your kin, but I don't need them to be underestimated. That's how the powerful die."

Dapplestone waded deeper into the water, holding her breath. The little waves barely lapped under her chin, but her heart beat quicker anyways. The thought of Gem made it all the more stressful. She couldn't stand disrespectful cats such as her.

The was gorgeous, naturally, taking her lineage, but she was weak in ways that Dapplestone didn't understand. *What she cat with her power doesn't take advantage? Unless she already is...* Especially she cats who gained favor so easily. Dapplestone fhad started from the bottom of Skyclan, as nothing but a disgraced orphan, because her mother mated with a Tom that the clan didn't know. Because she never revealed her mate, it made life ridiculously hard. She had

worked her muscles sore, every night training, just to get Graystar to realize her potential.

She even killed her dearest sister, to climb the latter. Her sister was too beautiful, and Dapplestone knew she had to pick up at Tom at a young age. Only her mate could raise her rank.

When Graystar died, and Thunderstar became leader, she had no idea what would come a few days later. He couldn't keep his eyes off her. Then she was made his apprentice, and everything went her way. She was almost too lucky.

"I don't want you to underestimate her, because she's just like you. Just us," Thunderstar remarked. She was rebellious, disgraced at a young age, beautiful, powerful and yet disrespectful and full of zest.

Dapplestone said with a breathy laugh. "Good Lightclan, this water is cold!"

Thunderstar dabbed at the water with his paw, shivering internally. "It's not that cold. Don't be a kit, dear."

This comment brought a snort out of Dapplestone. "I don't see you in here, Thunderstar. I thought leaders were more courageous, my love."

Normally a comment like that would anger Thunderstar, but Dapplestone was the exception. Especially after losing her for those many moons, he would never take her for granted again.

"Don't mettle with your leader, she cat," Thunderstar warned her with a smirk. "Or I might just have to punish you."

Another laugh from Dapplestone. The she cat pushed herself away from the muddy bottom of the water, and began to float without support. She kicked her arms and legs, and grinned when she found that swimming was not nearly so dangerous as she thought it would be. Dapplestone glanced to shore. Thunderstar had found another squirrel.

"We need to talk about adding more Queens," he said as he grabbed the squirrel, let it go long enough for it to run, and then snagged it

again wit his paw. "All the others have had their kits. Once the kits are made apprentices, They will be leaving the nursery soon. One queen does not a clan make."

Dapplestone didn't know why, but she thought of Maliceflame. The she cat had come into camp in tears after Thunderstar's punishment, and had refused to speak to anyone. Maliceflame didn't eat, she didn't pay hardly any attention to Thunderstar's orders, and the only cat she had spoken to was Bluewisp. She thought Maliceflame was stronger. It made Dapplestone curious on what type of punishment it was.

"Perhaps Bluewisp? She is young, and already has a mate. And she is already experienced in the field of kitting."

"Yes! I've forgotten. Their kits will provide good blood," Thunderstar agreed as he let the squirrel run one more time. "But not in raising them. Her first litter did not survive.."

"They were lost on the journey. She has Vulturestar's kits to practice with, and all three are turning out better then I expected," Dapplestone corrected. "Bluewisp would make a good queen. And Aspenfur is loyal enough to agree with whatever you ask of him."

"Loyal, but all too quiet," Thunderstar grumbled through bites of squirrel. "I feel like all that stoic silence hides plotting of some sort. You know he hasn't said one word to me at all since joining Stormclan?"

"You're being too paranoid, dear," Dapplestone scoffed, swimming out further into the Lake. "This is kind of fun. You should try."

"I'm no fish, Dapplestone."

Dapplestone's emerald eyes glinted with mischief. "Then I guess I'm just more versatile, my love. And braver."

Thunderstar growled, and tossed his squirrel aside. "No one, is braver than I!" Bracing himself for whatever the Dark Forest could conjure, he jumped into the water, disappeared underneath the waves, and resurfaced, gasping for breath. "Fox-dung, that's cold!"

Dapplestone could barely breath she was laughing so hard. "It gets warmer as you swim. You can paddle, yes?"

"Any idiot can paddle. If Mountainclan could see us now..how often do they do Lake edge patrols?"

"I have no idea," Dapplestone answered honestly. "I had forgotten that this is their Lake too. Well, it's every clan's lake. They all touch it."

Thunderstar, in all his heavy muscle, struggled to stay afloat. He decided that swimming wasn't as fun as Dapplestone made it look. The water weighed on his pelt, and the current kept pushing him under. "The Lake won't be Mountainclan's for long, not since we've got their kits. My father is probably spreading all our plans... Too bad spirits spans past death."

Dapplestone nodded, suddenly distracted. The she cat dived under the waves, disappearing from Thunderstar's view. The Lake grew silent, except for the lapping of water against the rocks and mud.

"Dapplestone?" He didn't want to go under, for certain that the Lake was out to get him, but after thirty seconds he was tempted to check. Thunderstar dived, and opened his eyes. Oh Lightclan, it burned his corneas, but the view. He could see fish all around him, big and small, and grass on the bottom of the Lake. He could see Dapplestone too, she had been near the bottom, looking at fish, and was now going back up. His lungs burning, Thunderstar followed.

"I have an idea," Dapplestone breathed heavily as she swam for shore. "You know how we always attack Mountainclan from the forest? Well, swimming reminded me of Icywind. The she cat began teaching it, and some learned. She swam the lake. What if we invaded Mountainclan not from the forest, but by the Lakeside, or even by swimming?"

They reached the shore, and shook the water out of their pelts. Dapplestone immediately began ferociously licking her paws.

"I wouldn't want to spare training on swimming for a moon..."

"If it means, infiltrating MountainClan by surprise, it could mean the end," Dapplestone said with a seductive whisper.

"By the way, my dear. I forgot to tell you my new plan. Instead of murdering every cat, uselessly, we'll put them to use. They'll be colonies for StormClan's future empire. All leaders must die, but the cats that pledge allegiance will e sorted into ranks and serve greater purposes. StormClan cats will still remain the highest blood, but why not subject cats to what we had to face. The strong will rise, the weak will not."

"That's brilliant, my love. And it would provide a huge breeding pool for future generations. We could mold the purest into perfection...," Dapplestone thought aloud, her mind on litters and cat matching. "When the kits come of age, they shall be ranked. The finest will join StormClan's central camp, and the rest will join the outer provinces. However, the lowest of the dirt, the runts, will be put out of their misery."

Thunderstar nodded in agreement. He wished that he'd thought of the idea, but that's why they needed each other. As perfect mates would, they brought out the excellence in one another.

"We'll start these laws soon... very soon in fact. Tell me about the new litters?"

"Rosejay's are promising. Snakekit, Moonkit and Steelkit are all large. But Snakekit is starting to show interest in herbs. I believe a medicine cat that can also battle efficiently would be a powerful force. Bluekit, their sister, is very intriguing. She keeps up with her brothers, and I believe she'll provide a good mate to one of our grand children one day. They all seem very promising."

"Yes, I agree. Go on."

"Sleetpool was our former deputy as you know and she bore all toms.."

"Move on. That's excellent."

"I'm not finished yet..."

"Yes you are, love."

"The last is Maliceflame's litter... and they're not what you'd expect for the oldest litter. They are big, but not bright. One of the she cats is small and disappointing. And we've already have seven other kits from MountainClan to take on..."

"Then the choice is obvious. Will you do it or shall I?"

"Perhaps I? Your punishment was quite enough. We don't want her hate to exceed her loyalty," Dapplestone explained with a bit of worry. What if she gets difficult?

"Leave her a she cat. The bigger. She'll need something to live for, and to fight for. We should get back to camp, before we're missed."

"Oh sure, but first..," Dapplestone gave her mate a sly smile. "As a queen, I think it's time I rejoined the nursery."

"I thought you said you were with kits already. Had something happened? You know you can't lose that litter.."

"I know. I didn't. We had the next leverage and it'll be here in two moons. I just, wanted to have some more fun, in the meantime.."

"Get the business done, first. Then you'll get your reward," Thunderstar smirked stubbornly, grabbing the remains of the squirrels. Dapplestone grunted and followed him back to camp. She was excited about it, but figured it was better then Thundersrar having to do it.

She entered camp, and watched Ivysong playing with the kits in a group. All of them were out there, and the queens must've been resting in the nursery.

"Rosejay and Sleetpool, I'd like you to go out and get some fresh air. Perhaps hunting could help, you've been in here for days," Dapplestone requested with a smile and Rosejay jumped up with a smile. She was so glad Dapplestone of how thoughtful she was being. Sleetpool stood, not as naïve, noticing Maliceflame hadn't been addressed to. But as the loyal warrior she was, she didn't argue and left.

"Maliceflame, may I speak to your kits?" Dapplestone asked with a pleasant expression. The she cat was quickly alarmed at the absurd nature, but obediently did what she was told.

"Tabbykit! Strikingkit! Oakkit! And Hollowkit! Please come here," Maliceflame called out. The four kits groaned but smiled as they saw Dapplestone. It wasn't everyday that the Queen of StormClan wanted to see them.

"Maliceflame, your kits have earned the approval of LightClan. I assure you, they've been given a great gift," Dapplestone said as she glanced them over. Tabbykit, the smallest she cat, would have to go. Strikingkit and Oakkit were nothing compared to the other toms. But Hollowkit, was Maliceflame's first born and could be a promising she cat.

"Dapplestone... are you well?"

"Perfectly," she said as she neared Tabbykit. In one move, she crushed her the kits throat. Maliceflame screamed, in realization but she had already split open Strikingkit's stomach and Oakkit's throat.

"What've you done?" Maliceflame hissed in horror. Dapplestone turned to face her for the difficult part.

"You and Hollowkit can swear to secrecy, about this ordeal, or you can make things difficult... do you want difficult?"

"You shall burn in DarkClan... where no fiery light shall live, only dark fires which will engulf your spirit, you wretched and foul monster..."

"I'm doing them a favor. Life without a father, is misery. I would know. I'm giving only one, a chance to prove herself. The rest with fair much better in LightClan," Dapplestone replied honestly.

"I will kill you..."

"Don't waste your last words with your daughter. Because I'm not dying by your claw... HELP! Someone help! Maliceflame has killed her kits!"

"I hate you," Maliceflame whispered in a hateful hiss between her teeth. She glanced around and at Hollowkit. She wouldn't make the journey, but Sleetpool would watch after her.

"No dear. You misunderstand me. Better run along, before Thunderstar comes along..."

"Do you know what that dishonorable scum did to me? He's no leader and no mate to you!" Maliceflame spat before running away. Hollowkit sat in the she of the den staring around in horror. The she kit was not old enough to know what death was.

"They're napping dear. Come here, maybe Jaybird will play with you."

After the clan affairs had been sorted. Dapplestone found herself exhausted in Thunderstar's and her's nest. Jaybird obediently treated the kit with Juniper berries for trauma. The Clan was told I Maliceflame and how she murdered her kits out of insanity. And how, she had slowly been losing it over time. She could worry about the clan believing it after she spoke with Thunderstar.

He came in after the moon arose in the sky and she immediately confronted him. Maliceflame's words had haunted her. She knew she shouldn't let words bother her, but they did.

"What'd you do to Maliceflame?"

"What do you mean? I corrected her insubordinate streak," Thunderstar replied. He didn't want to dwell on the matter at such a time of day. He was exhausted and didn't want this unnecessary stress.

"How?"

"Why does it matter?"

"Were you unfaithful?" She asked harshly. Thunderstar finally turned and looked her in the eyes.

"Yes," he replied quietly and she glanced at her paws in despondence. "Don't do this dear. You were with two other toms

while I was away! We both did what was needed for us."

"You don't love her, do you?"

"Of course not. You're acting daft! The only she cat I have ever had interest in is you. Do you need more proof?"

"Just... make love to me and let's forget this. I'm sorry I questioned you."

"No. Never regret, my love. Cats like us can't afford to regret..."

Sorry if this chapter used adult language for a few of you, but the issues are quite adult.

After much thought, and consul, I have decided that...

There will be a sequel.

Coming soon to a Wattpad near you.

Clan information

Below is listed finalized clan laws. This is their specific Warrior code.

This will give you ideas on what could come in the future.

StormClan- formerly DarkClan, this clan is located southeast of the lake. They live on a wide open meadow which has many jagged rocks and tunnels.
Leaders: Thunderstar and Vulturestar

Future and Current Laws: (Created by EpiCroft and CeRosette.)

Duties:
Warriors- their purpose is to the fight and protect the clan. They need to be muscular, fit, brave and obedient.

Hunters- their purpose is to hunt for the clan. They need to be fast, lean and quiet.

Messenger- their purpose is to run only borders from province to province, delivering messages from the head Clan and head leader.

Queens- their purpose is to birth and care for the young of the clan. This task is secular to females who become pregnant.

Medicine Cats- purpose is to heal, and counsel the clan. They act as a bridge between the real and spiritual worlds.

Elders- they are responsible for teaching clan history, authorized by leadership. And they do in clan chores.

Breeding:
- Mate must be authorized by the queen of the clan.

-Mate must be the opposite gender, so that they may supply kits.

- Medicine cats are not allowed to take part in mating or caring for

kits.

- Mates must mate for life. A mate may not leave their mate and kits. Families stick together.

- A Tom cannot force himself upon a she cat that is not his mate.

Battle:
- Show no mercy to enemies.

- If a group is defeated, rebellious toms and non-pregnant she cats will be executed. Pregnant he cats will be offered a second chance. The rest of the group will be offered peace, if they become a province under StormClan, following its laws.

- If one of the clan kills the enemy's leader, the battle is over. The enemy will then be offered peace.

Training:
- Kits will become apprentices at 5 moons. However, the queens must teach them basic necessities for their future training.

- At five moons, they will have the apprentice ceremony. This is a time where the ultimate leader of StormClan, will decide the kit's future duty and province. Province placement is essential to rank.

- Any kits that are useless, talentless, and cannot be fed will be put out of their misery.

Leadership:
- The future leader of the empire may only be a direct descendant of Thunderstar and Dapplestone. An heir must be sought out and secured regularly.

- The first born descendant will be first in line, whether Tom or she cat.

- Deputies are not succeeders of the current leader. They are leaders of separate provinces, and very noble cats. If the descendants of Dapplestone and Thunderstar ceased to exist or were not able, the most formidable deputy would take charge.

- Impeachment of a deputy is 3/4 of clan.

- Leadership impeachment must be unanimous throughout all clans and provinces.

MountainClan- clan located on a long forestry hill that leads down to the lake shore. There are no streams locate on their territory but they have the largest mountain.
Current leader: Spiderstar

Laws: (Created by EpicCroft)

Breeding:
- Medicine cats can have a mate and kits if there is another able and trained medicine cat in the clan.

- If two cats from separate clans have kits, the kits will stay in the mother's clan until their 5th moon, where they must decide which of their parent's clan to join.

- A she cat does not need to reveal who the father of her kits is. It is her choice whether to share the personal information or not.

- If any cat forces them self upon another without consent, there shall be fierce punishment. Only banishment if the victim requests it.

Foreign affairs:
- Show mercy to all other cats, especially innocent ones.

- Enemy or allied borders will be respected at all times. A cat may only cross with permission from a leader or an urgent matter of clan security.

- A patrol is sent to the Twolegplace every 6 moons to search for cats to join the Clans. For every cat deserves a chance at the chance to follow the Warrior code.

Domestic affairs:
- If prey is scarce, cats eat in the following order: Queens, Kits, Elders, Warriors, and apprentices.

- All cats choose loyalty to MountainClan or leave. Loyalty is not forced upon any cat.

- Kits will become apprentices at 5 moons. They cannot participate in battle until 7 moons.

Harsh offenses worth strict punishment:
- Murder of the any sort, to any cat, is not permitted. In the case of a very dangerous cat, if leader allows, Warriors are permitted to break cat's leg and leave them in the Twolegplace there.

- Fights between Warriors of the same clan will receive apprentice duties for a moon. If they do not learn their lesson and severely harm another clan mate, they could face exile.

- Harming or bullying of a non-hostile cat is forbidden.

CaveClan- Clan that lives in a cave to the northeast, and take many of forest streams.
Current leader: Cinderstar

Laws: (Created by XxRandomKatxX)

Breeding:
- Medicine cats are not allowed to have a mate or kits. There will be punishment for breaking this law

-Mates from different clans are allowed, but if the cat becomes pregnant, the two cats must decide which Clan they will live in.

-Apprentices must not have mates or kits till they become Warriors. (No punishment if this happens. It is a law that just should not be broken.)

Battle:
-Only kill a cat when necessary.

-You must fight with you life. You do not give up or give in, even if it is a sibling for former friend. The Clan always comes first.

Apprentice Training:
-The apprentice must have at least 2 1/2 moons of hunting training,

2 1/2 moons of battle training, and 1 moon of training in medicine. That will be just the basic herbs you might need if someone is injured. They will need to memorize them.

-If a apprentice from outside the Clan comes in, instead of becoming a warrior at 12 moons, they will train for 2 extra moons to ensure they are properly trained.

Warriors:
-Must always be willing to help anyone in the Clan despite any grudges against the Cat.

-If a cat is injured severely, they will first apply the basics they learned during training, then report to the medicine cat as soon as possible. (Those who are already warriors will train for a moon in herbs.)

-Greatest respect must go the Leader, Deputy, Elders, and Medicine cat. They are often wiser, and arguing won't be tolerated. A simple hit to the head(not extremely hard, but hard enough to hurt.) and a warning will be given the first time. The second time, they will be given Den Clean out duty for a moon. The third time, the previous punishment, shame from the whole Clan, and every other cat must eat before you, is punishment. If it continues, the punishments will continue to become more sever. Eventually, if warrior, name will be striped and he/she will become an apprentice again. If apprentice, he/she will have extended apprentice ship. If this still continues to happen, cat will be banished.

LakeClan- clan that lives southeast of the lake, on a marshy area with many streams.
Current leader: Shadowstar

Laws: (Created by EpicCroft)

Breeding:
- Medicine cats may have kits with a Tom inside the clan.

- Mates from other clans are allowed. The parents however must resolve the issue.

- If a Tom forces himself upon a she cat, the Tom will be killed.

Domestic affairs:
- Only a she cat, may become leader. Toms can become deputy but only she cats can lead.

- Kits are made apprentices at 6 moons. Drowning is too much of a risk for young LakeClan cats, they must be strong.

- The head Queen, takes a leadership role in the Clan as medicine cats do. They advise the leader on how the young are fairing and such. Their job is to make sure every cat is prepared and protect them if not.

- Fights will be punished.

Foreign affairs:
- LakeClan must try to stay out of other clan affairs.

- LakeClan does not fight any wars unless homelands are attacked. They must try to avoid war at all costs.

- Do not engage in fights with other antagonizing cats.

RogueClan- a small nomad clan. Most of the clans see them as a troublesome enemy because they don't believe in laws or borders. Creators: Gem and Shadow

Laws: (Created by EpicCroft)

Breeding:
- A mate is not limited to gender, clan, or status. They must love each other, however.

Foreign affairs:
- Don't engage any other clans unless needed. Always run and be clever.

Domestic affairs:
- Everyone helps the group. No one is stereotyped by name, status, blood or gender.

- Fighting in the clan, is not permitted. The Clan is a true family where others care for each other.

- RogueClan does not believe in LightClan and do not receive the nine lives. They see it as cheating.

- There is no specific leader. They share wisdom.

Discuss and debate in the comments.

Chapter 54

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Spiderstar- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Deputy: Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Morningpoppy- a yellow tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. She has flame colored ears and black paws.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Stormchaser

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Spiderstar

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:

Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. Expecting Raspyhowl's kits.

Kits:
Olivekit- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 2 moons.

Crimsonkit- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. 2 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 3 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 3 moons.

Tawnykit- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. 3 moons.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat. She is 100 moons and grandmother to Jaggedclaw and Riverpaw.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Expecting Stormchaser's kits.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Queen:
Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail. Kits: Nightkit (she cat), Blazekit (she cat), and Flarekit (Tom)

Kits:
Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. 1 moon.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. 1 moon.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. 1 moon.

StormClan-

Leaders: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputies: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Medicine cat: Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her

paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Lotusfoot- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are

always visible.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail.

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.

Queen of the Clan:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Queens:

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Kits: Steelkit (tom), Bluekit (she cat), Snakekit (Tom), and Moonkit (Tom).

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Kits: Hailkit (Tom), Swiftkit (Tom), and Pebblekit (Tom)

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 3 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 3 moons.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 3 moons.

Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 2 moons.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 2 moons.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 2 moons.

Eaglekit- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. 2 moons.

Cherrykit- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. 2 moons.

Rustkit- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. 2 moons.

Firekit- a ginger-orange furred Tom with violet eyes. 2 moons.

Robinkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. 2 moons.

Hollowkit- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. 1 moon.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes.

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful.

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue.

Apprentices:

Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Otterpaw- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. Mentor: Rockfall

Lightningpaw- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. Mentor: Maplewood

Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. Mentor: Hiddencreek

Kits:
Finchkit- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. 3 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 3 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 3 moons.

Dawnkit- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. 4 moons.

Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 4 moons.

Cougarkit- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. 5 moons.

Marshkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. 5 moons.

RogueClan-

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Around 10 moons.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Around 10 moons.

Hawk- a grey thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. Around 10 moons.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. Around 30 moons.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Around 50 moons.

The signs of green leaf were flooding in. Blossoms began booing throughout the forest, the rain showers had finally stopped, and prey ran about eagerly. The forest had been reborn in a sense that Raspyhowl had never witnessed before.

He spotted a robin swiftly, and crouched down. Since birds were always an abundance, it was no probably to hunt them. However, some picky cats preferred squirrels or rabbits that were not in abundance. Prey is prey.

Raspyhowl pounced forward when the time was right and snagged its wing. Next he brought it to his jaw, but not savoring its flavor. It was for Cloudfire.

"Nice one. Why don't you ever eat a bite though? It's the least you deserve!" Feathershade declared as he came out from the bush behind him. The two were hunting today while others focused on checking the borders, a task becoming very dangerous by the day.

"I don't... I just think it's disrespectful, that's all. Back in ShadowClan, my brother always waited to eat along with all hunters. Elders eat first... it's just tradition.."

"You miss him, don't you?" Feathershade asked sympathetically. It was an obvious question, but she could tell he wanted to talk about it.

"Of course I do. But, he was much more then just kin to me. He was my true friend, my brother, and essentially my mentor. The only one I had was him and Horsetail. And now," Raspyhowl huffed as he finished his explanation. His fur rose a bit and he began pacing back and forth.

"His death shouldn't have happened.. Now, I found out that Horsetail knew! Jaggedclaw told me himself! He knew how manipulate Thunderstar was and everything he planned to do. He let that hag just, prance all over my brother! Like he didn't care! Like he didn't know!" Raspyhowl shouted, cracking his voice several times. He barely notice it, and continued his pacing.

"Redstar really did love her. He was a great mate, to her," Feathershade commented with a lot of truth. The she cat had observed silently, back those days. She once, yearned for romance, but became as Swiftfawn had. They both realized that chasing toms would not benefit themselves nor the clan. Only working hard, would benefit everyone.

"I hate Dapplestone.. I want to kill that dung-hearted mutt more then anyone. Dammit! Why? Why, my brother," Raspyhowl cried, trying to compose the tears. Feathershade didn't judge but led him to the grand Sycamore. It was the largest tree of the forest, where they first hunted.

"Do you remember? Back all those moons ago. You told Skorge, well, Spiderstar, that climbing trees was useful.. Then you taught me how. Everything was so much, simpler, back then."

"But we wouldn't have had all the good moments either. When Redstar came back, it was just like old times.."

"My brother and I, before Icywind's death, we were so close. Now he's leader and..."

"Yeah. I know what you mean."

"How's it going with Cloudfire? I'm happy for you two, in the midst of all this," Feathershade said with a smile. Raspyhowl nodded then gave her a grim expression.

"I love her, but I haven't been able to really talk with her since Redstar's death. Everything's been really hard," he explained. Feathershade nodded and thought back again to before the separation of the clans. Before the first Warriors of these clans were made. Through thick and thin, her friends had been there, and she was eternally grateful.

"Raspyhowl, thank you."

"For what?"

"Brining me here. Having faith in a kittypet. Without you, none of the cats would've found their way here. We would've never climbed this massive dung of a tree."

"It's a sycamore."

"Whatever. Hey, why didn't you want to be deputy? Spiderstar asked you first, according to Jaggedclaw," Feathershade asked with curiosity. She had rooted for Raspyhowl, but it was Jaggedclaw who became deputy.

"Are you kidding me? I never wanted to be leader, or deputy or anything... big! I just wanted to be a good warrior. Now I have to worry about being a father..."

"Oh please, Raspyhowl!" As Feathershade said the words and grabbed her prey, a rustlingly nearby started.

Suddenly, a group of cats appeared, and both MountainClan cats shot to their paws. To their relief, Cinderstar, Shymask and other cats were the only cats present and posed no intimate threat.

"We need to speak with Spiderstar. Its a matter of clan security..."

"I'll go back and get Spiderstar, everyone is on high alert so, we better not take everyone to camp," Feathershade said realizing how many were among them. She recognized Cinderstar, Shymask,

Shadow, and Gem but everyone else was unfamiliar and had strange scents. She wasted no time and quickly darted back to camp with Raspyhowl's catch.

Raspyhowl waited in silence with the group around the large Sycamore. He didn't want to ask questions that may not even pertain to him, but eventually, the silence was killing him.

"Are these new members of CaveClan, Cinderstar?" Raspyhowl asked with a cool composure, letting his lips form a small smile.

"Actually, no. Gem and her band of buddies insist on calling themselves *RogueClan*. And *RogueClan* is starting to get on our nerves. But that's not the main problem," he explained quietly with a glare toward Gem and the others inspecting the tree. They seemed to take interest in it, and a black furred Tom even started to climb it.

"Gossiping about us isn't nice, Cinderstar," the black furred Tom called from atop the tree. Cinderstar turned back to Raspyhowl with exasperated face.

"Shut it, Llewyn," Shadow began but was swiftly met by the Tom. He was much older but only bigger then Shadow by a bit.

"Shadow, aren't you forgetting our rules. Freedom of speech is necessary in liberating all cats! We must speak our minds if we are ever to evolve," he explained with a wide grin. Shadow also looked exasperated, but Gem gave him a nod of approval. The recruitment of new ideals, and new rogues was sure to help her cause.

"What are they talking about?" Raspyhowl asked, a bit confused. Shymask was about to answer, but Gem took the stand before he did.

"Our new clan! We'll be the winning force in this war, and finally bring reformation to these clans.."

"What!" Raspyhowl spat in shock.

"Perhaps you don't understand, *Gempaw*, but these Clans were started by LightClan itself... Without LightClan there wouldn't be

your new ideals or whatever rat you speak of," Shymask pointed out. It was obvious, that CaveClan already had to go through the same routine. Cinderstar and Shymaks were not up for another round of new ideology and political reform when they could barely keep their clan safe.

"Sorry, but that's a kit's story. Grow up," Gem corrected. Raspyhowl was once again shocked, but the CaveClan cats only shook their heads. Llewyn had began to explain Twoleg society to the cats, when Spiderstar arrive. And that in itself, was as great as finding catnip.

"So what brings you here?" Spiderstar asked optimistically. He had brought along Jaggedclaw, Stormchaser, and Flamespirit.

"It's StormClan. They've done some horrible things. Not to our clan yet, but to a former Warrior... Maliceflame," Cinderstar explained in all seriousness. The ragged white she cat stepped forward and Spiderstar was bitter at the sight. His mate was her daughter, yet she was no mother.

"I know we've had our differences in the past, but it has gotten out of claw. StormClan had changed their laws, and have even formed their clan to their preference. My mate, Oakstripe, was wounded at the battle. But he was shown no mercy even though he fought valiantly... He was killed when I helped Gem as Shadow escape execution. Then, I was raped," Maliceflame said with no flinch nor utterance.

"What! That's horrible.. that's so completely and awfully horrible..."

"By Thunderstar himself. Of course, he got away with it. And, because I proved to be difficult, he had Dapplestone, kill my kits. *All* of them..."

"Dapplestone, kill kits? That's not like her!" Jaggedclaw insisted. The she cat he once knew would never do something that horrid, vile and unforgivable.

"Tell that to my kits! Dung-face! StormClan is out of control. Former DarkClan members are beginning to scramble at the terrifying

authority that Thunderstar imposes, and we can't do anything to stop it," she admitted before her eyes dropped to her paws. Gem, her former apprentice, focused on comforting her.

"So you came all this way, to tell us that we have no chance?" Spiderstar questioned impatiently. Cinderstar shook his head, looking him in the eye.

"No. We came here to talk. I promise, that wherever you fight, CaveClan will follow. That's what friends do."

"You're nuts," Shadow scoffed. The leaders glared toward Shadow with little disdain. They didn't appreciate the lack of respect the rogues were showing.

"You think standing up is great, so do we. But you don't understand... StormClan is practicing everyday and by now, they'll probably be learning new battle tactics. They have the most successful and manipulative leader, who has lost only two of his lives. Neither were by the claw of another cat. Thunderstar cannot be defeated. If he could, I would be there right now, sacrificing my life to do so... But it's not going to happen," Gem said in a state of default. Everyone fell into a terrible silence that only she broke. "The main thing, is keeping the other three clans, out of StormClan's grasp. That way, at least you'll still have your families... but if you fight him. You'll lose it all. There's no return, *all of you* will be dead..."

Spiderstar exchanged a glance with Cinderstar and neither flinched. *She's wrong, we can defeat him. That's why we're here. That's our destiny*.. Shymask exchanged a worried glance with Stormchaser, her secret mate.

"We'll fight. Can you contact LakeClan, Cinderstar?"

"Yes. I'll have someone go soon. Be ready, and CaveClan will send word of the battle's day.."

No... Gem thought as she shook her head. She exchanged a saddened expression to Maliceflame who only held remorse. *They're going to die*.

Meanwhile, deep in StormClan's medicine cat den, Sprucestrike fidgeted as Jaybird was tending to the pad of his paws. A large thorn was embedded in one, and the rest were sore. Being part of StormClan wasn't getting any easier, even for the deputy.

"Stop falling in thorns and we'd never have to go through this," the medicine cat said with a grin. Sprucestrike laughed abruptly, before glancing around the den more. He did come into the small space quite regularly for thorn removal, herbs for aching joints, and to deliver messages for Thunderstar.

"You try it! *Blindbird*," he joked making fun of her disability. However, the medicine cat had overcome it. It wasn't easy but she was well enough that others forgot she was blind.

"No. I wouldn't be running like an idiot. Ivysong tells me, you weren't even hunting!"

"We were warming up for battle practice," Sprucestrike said with a smidgen of a grin. Jaybird shrugged, unknowingly. The battle practice wasn't the complete truth. He was attempting to court Ivysong. The she cat was truly, like no other. She didn't appreciate the dull life of a Queen and could keep up with himself and the other Warriors. Not to mention, she was a unique beauty. Her Siamese origin was uncommon among clan cats.

"Well. Whatever you two were doing, stop getting hurt. If your paws are still sore tonight, come get some dock leaves," Jaybird reminded him. He nodded gratefully and left. Jaybird was a good friend and almost like the mother he never had.

By the time he was done with Jaybird, it was almost night. After eating a tasty shrew, he spotted Ivysong speaking with Rainpool beside the prey pile. He didn't understand why, but even compared to the beauty that was Rainpool, he was only attracted to Ivysong.

Thunderstar would've preferred he took a likely to one of granddaughters, but they were all very young. But Vulturestar, their father, would not appreciate that and he felt uncomfortable around Thunderstar's kin. Ivysong, was more of 27 moons while he was 35 moons. He took the opportunity and trotted over to her. Rainpool

took the sign and headed off to speak with Bubblefur.

"Hey Sprucestrike! Did she get the thorn out? I'm sorry we went close to the thorn hollows..."

"Yeah! It's fine. But, I wanted to know how you were feeling about running today?"

"Oh great! Running, hunting, or whatever! That's what I do," she said with an exuberant expression. Her wide green eyes locked with his for a little long, and they both fell into awkward laughs. "Well, I gotta go. I promised Jaybird I'd get her more burdock leaves while I was out.."

"Bye," he said as he watched her trot off. *Fox-dung, Sprucestrike. You could've offered to help her. Unless she's find it condescending...* He thought to himself, before heading back to the Warrior's den. On his way, Jaybird stopped him.

"Sprucestrike, do you mind fetching me herbs? Everyone else is already too tired or they're out on night patrols.."

"Sure. Which herb?"

"Burdock leaves. They grow behind rocks.." Sprucestrike thought back to what Ivysong just said and became confused. *Jaybird isn't that old... She wouldn't say it twice and waste our time. Something's strange.* So, Sprucestrike followed Ivysong's scent until he saw two figures under a tree by the lakeside. He quickly recognized Ivysong, but did not notice the other until he crawled closer. *Jaggedclaw... wait what?* The MountainClan deputy was speaking with Ivysong. Soon, Sprucestrike was close enough to hear the words.

"She killed her kits! Dapplestone's a monster," Ivysong whispered. It was deep into the night, and once again, she was visiting her friend from MountainClan. *No... she can't be...* Sprucestrike thought to himself. *She's loyal, she wouldn't.*

"That's what Maliceflame said. Are you sure? How could she do that?" Jaggedclaw asked in a state of disbelief. He had once had feelings for Dapplestone, but what she had did, changed everything.

"I didn't know we before, but she's nothing but fake and manipulative. Her and Thunderstar disgust me," Ivysong said bluntly. *No... No! Why, Ivysong...*

"Well, let's not talk about that. Let's just, enjoy our time together," Jaggedclaw said with a smirk. Ever since he met her at the battle, they'd been meeting in secret. He'd been looking for a mate to settle down with, and was convinced she was the one. "I'm surprised you could make it out of camp, tonight."

"Me too. It's getting too dangerous. I'm afraid if anyone finds out... I'll be kicked out or killed.."

She would be... Sprucestrike realized. He was filled with a disappointment that could not, easily, be mended.

"You know, you can always come to MountainClan. There's tons of prey, everyone is family!"

How dare he! StormClan is the closest and most honorable family there is...

"No Jaggedclaw. I couldn't. Sleetpool and Vulturestar found me. I couldn't turn on them," Ivysong replied. Even the new cats, such as Sprucestrike, Tigerstorm and Dragonstone were becoming close friends. "I have too many friends."

"But.. You're choosing them over me."

"No! I'm just.. Torn between two places. I want to be with you, but I want to be with DarkClan," she exasperated as she paced back and forth.

"Not StormClan?"

"Of course not. Thunderstar manipulates everyone around him. His mate, his son, his deputy.." Sprucestrike let out an audible scoff. Thunderstar didn't manipulate him. He chose to follow him because he promised power. Not because he cared for Thunderstar. *Just because I'm handsome and a great warrior, doesn't mean I'm not daft, Ivysong.*

"Alright. How about in three more days we meet up? That should give you enough time to shake suspicion," Jaggedclaw asked with a hopeful smile. She grinned back then licked his ear. Sprucestrike felt himself silently whimper. *Why him?*

"I'll try," she murmured before they both departed.

As soon as Jaggedclaw was out of sight, Sprucestrike cornered the she cat. Once he came into her view, she froze in shock. *How could I be so stupid?*

"Please... Sprucestrike.."

"Why didn't I think of that? That's very clever, Ivysong. Seducing and spying on the enemy... Have you gotten any important entail yet?" Sprucestrike questioned with a friendly tone. Of course, he knew her real motives, but what good would it be to turn her over. Pressing her to spy would not only be beneficial to StormClan, but also to his chances with Ivysong. He'd help her save herself from destruction.

"No, not yet. Except, that they've got new cats in their clan. I'll try to get more out of him next time," she replied playing along cooly. He smiled and walked back to camp with her. *Thunderstar will be very pleased...*

"All cats of StormClan, gather below the jagged rock..."

It was the following morning, and Thunderstar was eager to hold an official meeting to represent the new changes. Vulturestar sat on his right this time, and Dapplestone on his left. His mate was now in a much better mood then the previous days, but his son carried the stoic scowl on his face.

"Smile, Vulturestar. Show some emotion or else..."

"Don't tell me what to do," he muttered under his breath. Thunderstar must've not heard it or ignored it because he smiled at the growing clan, preparing to speak. Vulturestar disliked the changes being made.

Two of his most fierce and loyal Warriors, were gone. And the kits,

could not have been killed by Maliceflame, for she loved them too much. He felt a shift in the clan, however he tried his best to assimilate.

"We have recently brought to light, a new system for the clan. A clan with specialization, that in the long term, will benefit everyone," Thunderstar explained with a loud declare. "For where lies specialization, lies order and perfection. There will be knew positions compiled of Medicine cats, warriors, hunters, messengers, Elders and Queens. And we will sort you into those, today."

"It's never been this way before," Jaybird murmured to Twistedfoot, who sat near to her. The deputy shrugged indifferently, eager to listen.

"Our Warriors, shall have the honor of protecting the clan by fighting off any threat. This cats will include: Earthfoot, Poisonberry, Fierceclaw, Lostpath, Tigerstorm, Moonbliss, Dustystripe, Dragonstone and Bubblefur. Do you accept this honor, Warriors?" Thunderstar asked seriously. They nodded in response and Bubblefur grinned. Out of all the apprentices, she was chosen for this job. Airflight send her a silent nod of congratulations and she smiled to herself.

"Next. Our Hunters, have the responsibilities of finding, rationing, and catching prey. These will include: Nightjet, Foxheart, Ivysong, Aspenfur, Brightfire, Rainpool, Cedarlily and Sleetpool. Do you accept this honor?"

Again, the cats nodded gratefully, though the rest of the clan was left wondering.

"Airflight and Lotusfoot, you both have been chosen as Messengers. You both have proven to be the fastest of StormClan. You will exemplify these talents by scouting, running along borders, and spreading messages throughout our future territories."

The two toms nodded in excitement. Lotusfoot for so grateful that he had been forgiven being part of VoidClan and was now an important member of StormClan.

"Burrclaw, you will remain an elder. Though you will be required to teach the kits and regularly help the clan camp," Thunderstar said politely. The elder Tom rose his head and nodded once he had comprehended his words.

"Aye. That'll give me something to do!"

"And for our final positions. Dapplestone, Rosejay, and Bluewisp will continue to be queens as provide well litters for the clan. When not with litter, you may be a hunter. Any she cat that is with kits, must see Dapplestone so that she may notify the clan and we may change your position for the time being. I believe that will be all of the new positions for now. You'll start this morning with the direction of our deputies. We must prepare, for in two moons we'll extend our territory across the land, and no other clan will stand in our way..."

Thank you for reading. Vote if you enjoyed 5, words of this story about CATS!

Also, Your Legacy the sequel is published but will not begin until Your Destiny is completed.

Ship question of the day?
IvyStrike? Or IvyClaw?

Chapter 55

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Spiderstar- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Deputy: Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Morningpoppy- a yellow tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. She has flame colored ears and black paws.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Stormchaser

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Spiderstar

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. Expecting Raspyhowl's kits.

Kits:
Olivekit- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 3 moons.

Crimsonkit- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. 3 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 4 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 4 moons.

Tawnykit- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. 4 moons.

Elder:

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Expecting Stormchaser's kits.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail.

Apprentices:
Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Kits:
Nightkit- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes.

Blazekit- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.

Flarekit- a golden tabby Tom with Amber eyes.

Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. 2 moon.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. 2 moon.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. 2 moon.

StormClan-

Leaders: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputies: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Medicine cat: Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like

stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Hunters:

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his

legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.

Messengers:

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes.

Lotusfoot- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Queen of the Clan:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with Emerald green eyes. Expecting Redstar's and Thunderstar's kits.

Queens:

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Kits: Steelkit (tom), Bluekit (she cat), Snakekit (Tom), and Moonkit (Tom).

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Kits: Hailkit (Tom), Swiftkit (Tom), and Pebblekit (Tom)

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 4 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 4 moons.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 4 moons.

Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 3 moons.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 3 moons.

Eaglekit- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Cherrykit- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. 3 moons.

Rustkit- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. 3 moons.

Firekit- a ginger-orange furred Tom with violet eyes. 3 moons.

Robinkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. 3 moons.

Hollowkit- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. 2 moons.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes.

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white

speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful.

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue.

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. Around 34 moons.

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. 17 moons.

Apprentices:

Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Otterpaw- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. Mentor: Rockfall

Lightningpaw- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. Mentor: Maplewood

Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Badgerclaw

Marshpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. Mentor: Moondust

Kits:
Finchkit- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. 4 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 4 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 4 moons.

Dawnkit- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. 5 moons.

Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 5 moons.

RogueClan-

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Around 10 moons.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Around 10 moons.

Hawk- a grey thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. Around 10 moons.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. Around 30 moons.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Around 40 moons.

"Vain! Let's go play outside!" a tiny voice squealed in his ear. Vain opened his eyes, and came face to face with his sister, Tulip, who had wriggled free of their mother's iron grip. It was early morning, and birds were singing outside.

Tulip prodded him with her paw, smiling sweetly. Her voice dropped to a whisper. "Please, Vain? While Momma and Daddy are asleep." Her face had gone from sweet to serious in maybe two

seconds. Vain laughed.

"Okay," he whispered back in his own tiny voice, and wriggled out from under his mother's paw. He was too energetic to sleep in, anyway.

The kits threw one last glance at their mother, and the balls of fur that were other mothers and their kits, before skittering out into the camp. The air was crisp, and the ground was dewy. The grass went up to their leg joints, and tickled under their chins. Tulip giggled.

"Momma's gonna be so surprised!" She smirked, stepping daintily through the grass. "She won't believe how grown up we are."

"Okay," Vain said admirably, astonished at his sister's bravery. He would have been afraid of frightening his mother; still kinda was, but the adventurous forest around their camp seemed to call out to him, and make him forget the danger of being without a babysitter.

"We should have woken up Aspenkit," Tulip realized thoughtfully. "That would be fun! Do you think Starlingwing would have let him?"

Honestly, Vain wasn't fond of Aspenkit. Their nursery mate was a three older, and often bragged about how often his father taught him new moons. It made Vain jealous; his father never did that with him. He was always too busy, being leader and all.

"He would talk too much, and wake everyone up!"

Tulip suddenly stopped. Her little ears twitched, and she turned around to glance at her brother.

"Vain?" She asked, a strange glint in her eye. "Can you promise me something? Can you make a StarClan promise?"

For some reason, Vain shuddered. The air was less crisp, and the dew was starting to soak the fur on his legs. But Tulip had asked him a question.

"Duh," Vain rolled his eyes. "Warriors make promises, all the time. And I'm a warrior!"

"Will you always keep us safe? Our family. Mommy, Daddy, you and me."

Vain paused at this. A strange thought was wiggling in the back of his mind, a dark thought. *Why wouldn't I keep her safe?*

"What would I need to keep you safe from?" He asked in confusion. It was a complicated question. There weren't any nearby clans and they would always be a team. What could harm her?

Tulip shrugged her small, delicate shoulders and bolted forward, running into the woods. Vain shot up and followed her. "Wait up! Tulip!"

His sister was acting weird. Tulip wasn't very active, usually, when it came to running around and playing warrior. Tulip liked to play Den, and assign all the other kits with a family position. Vain was always her brother, Flexkit and Gritkit would be the kits, since they were a moon younger. And together they would force Aspenkit to be the dad, though he clearly showed an aversion to it. Tulip was born to start a family one day.

He followed Tulip into the forest, casting looks around the shadowed areas as he ran. He'd never been in the woods before. He could still see Tulip, who was getting closer as she got tired from all the running.

As they ran, the forest seemed to change. The forest around them darkened, and shining silver flowers sprouted up along the blackening forest path. Shadows of cats, ghostly and quiet as mist, flitted through the trees. Tulip's white coat began to shine so brightly that it was blinding Vain.

They stopped, out of breath. Tulip turned around to face Vain, and his haggard breath caught in his throat.

"Tulip?" He asked, horrified.

Tulip's face was hollow and sunken. Her pretty blue eyes had lost their color, and were a foggy and rotten gray color, with dried blood rimming her corneas and leaking down, onto her cheeks. As

she breathed, her body began to twist grotesquely, becoming the most horrifying image he had ever beheld. Her usual timid sweetness disappeared in a grotesque vision of pain and horror. Vain could have sworn he heard her spine pop.

"Big..brother...," she chokes, as if her own lungs were choking her. "You said you would...protect the... Our family.."

Vain was voiceless. He had to find Momma, get Daddy, find someone to help his sister. She looked dead, broken, shattered and unfixable.

"You could have saved those kits," she sobbed, heartbroken. "But now they're with me and not their mommy. Tabbykit.. Oakkit.. Strikingkit are all dead, at our mommy's claw. You broke the promise..."

"What! I'm sorry!" Vain screamed back. "What can I do? I need to save you!"
Tulip gave him a sad smile. Blood leaked out of her nose. "I'm dead, Vain. Only the living's actions can hurt me now."

And just like that she was normal. No wounds, no brokenness, just her and her shining white fur and pretty blue eyes. She even appeared to be glowing.

"Don't let daddy make you forget us. Remember, me. Remember, Skystar. If you do, we'll always be with you. I gave you one of those nine lives to protect the weak and innocent. Don't ruin it. Momma and Daddy need your help. Guide them back to the light... *please*. Keep our family together."

Vulturestar woke up.

Reality engulfed him as he realized he was in his den, once again. It had been a moon since Thunderstar ordered the new decree. StormClan cats had been practicing their new positions for a moon now, yet no one had met danger.

Because of the new group that called themselves, RogueClan, any attacks had been faltered. Every time a MountainClan and

StormClan patrol came close, RogueClan would come in between them and steer them off course. And sadly, every attempt to catch RogueClan had been failed. They only clawed a few seconds before bolting away, breaking the element surprise for the true MountainClan attack. Fighting head on, was not the way StormClan wanted to defeat MountainClan.

"Vulturestar, are you awake? Sprucestrike is supervising the battle training today, but Thunderstar would like you there to.."

"Thank you, but I'm fine Dragonstone. Can you send in Twistedfoot, though?" Vulturestar asked as he stood in his nest. By the it's touch, he could tell the feathers lining his best were soaked with his sweat. The dream had really took a toll on him. Dragonstone still stood at the entrance, a bit pensive. He seemed as if he wanted to say something.

"Um.. Vulturestar, sir. I have a few concerns about.. my position," he said with wavering eyes. Vulturestar, however, looked him straight in the eye. It was a sign of respect, but Vulturestar was only feeling exasperation.

"And.."

"I'm a horrible fighter. If you put me out on the battle field, I may lose it for everyone, and I don't want to do that. It's not that I'm a coward, because I'd do anything my clan, it's just... I'd be lying if I'd say I didn't fear for my life," he replied finally sharing his worries with someone other then a rock.

"No warrior is, unafraid of battle.. well maybe there are.. but I'm not. So we're in the same trouble. But if you are, really the worst of your group, perhaps we could change you to a position that suits you."

"Thank you Vulturestar. You're much easier to come to then Thunderstar," Dragonstone before departing from his den. Vulturestar frowned at the phrase and remembered what Tulip said. *Tabbykit.. Oakkit.. Strikingkit are all dead, at our mommy's claw. Dapplestone? No. She would never... not the Dapplestone I know*. Maliceflame had supposedly killed her litter from insanity all but a

moon ago. But the Maliceflame he knew, would never do that to her kits. She almost disobeyed Vulturestar himself back in the days of DarkClan, just to avenge Ghostpelt's death.

As he left his den, he spotted the full hunting pile, but found no hunger within him. The grotesque images of his dead sister were going to put off his appetite for days. Instead, he spotted Twistedfoot entertaining the kits near the nursery.

The biggest, Ashkit, Bonekit, and Vicekit sat under the shade, uninterested in the enemy clan. All they could think about was their father, Spiderstar. The case was similar for Firekit, Rustkit, Eaglekit, and Robinkit who all missed Raspyhowl and their father Redstar.

Cherrykit, their sister, was just happen to be with Dapplestone again. She received the most attention from her mother since Olivekit and Crimsonkit were back at MountainClan and she was a the little girl. She was becoming quite the dumb-butt, according to her brothers.

"Twistedfoot, how'd you get your foot?" Tangledkit asked with a curious grin.

"If you misbehave a lot, the medicine cat can break your foot.."

"WHAT! When I'm medicine cat, I'll never do that!" Snakekit shouted proudly and the others giggled. Some began arguing with Twistedfoot.

"That's not true," Hailkit snickered.

"Yeah, he's lying," Firekit smirked.

"It's not nice to lie," Bluekit snapped.

"Alright, alright. Medicine don't break your feet. I was born this way," Twistedfoot explained.

"I wish I could be like you, that looks so cool!" Sharpkit said, out of nowhere. Vulturestar started to laugh, and all the kits' heads flipped.

"Daddy!"

"You don't want to have a broken foot. Did you explain how hard it was for you initially?" Vulturestar questioned, making sure the kits wouldn't go break bones. Who knows what they'd get themselves into to...

"He's right. It is very hard. It would've been harder if I didn't have your father to train me," Twistedfoot replied. He stared at his mentor and friend with admiration before Vulturestar finally cut to the case.

"I need to speak with Hollowkit. Do you know where she is?" He asked calmly. Dapplestone nor Thunderstar were in camp so this was the perfect time to take action. This was he only chance he had at finding out the truth.

"Why do you wanna speak with *her*?" Deathkit grumbled from his spot. He was always down, and disappointed at the lack of attention he received. He knew his father could care less about them. *Lucky for Gempaw, she got out.*

"Yeah. Hollowkit's a baby. She never wants to play battle because *it's dangerous...*"

"She's weird dad," Cherrykit said, hoping he wouldn't worry about the clan and would spend more time with them. He frowned then nodded to Twistedfoot.

"Alright. Twistedfoot, is going to show you the Warrior's den.."

"But we've already seen it before!" Rustkit reminded him. Vulturestar ignited the comment and walked into the nursery. The queens were enjoying lunch outside, so everything was empty and quiet. But in the corner, he could here a faint breathing coming from a small body.

The she kit was big for her size, but very tiny compared to Vulturestar's size. She huddled close to herself in the corner trying to stop shaking.

"Plleaase... daa...don't hurt me.."

"Why would I hurt you?" Vulturestar asked with a calmer and quieter voice. She didn't make eye contact and continued to hide her face.

"What's wrong? You can tell me. You won't get in trouble," he assured her and sat back. After minutes of silence, Hollowkit decided that she couldn't risk punishment and turned around. Vulturestar was shocked to see a swollen eye and bent ear. She had to limp over, because there were bruises beneath the fur on her tiny legs.

"I.. I saw a dream. I saw a dream of... Dapplestone... killing my siblings. I told Dapplestone, and she said, she'd make me forget after I was punished," Hollowkit whispered, now in all seriousness. Vulturestar frowned just as Hollowkit's face took a state of fear once more. Vulturestar turned his he's to see Dapplestone sitting before the entrance of the nursery with a bundles of herbs at her feet.

"Hollowkit, I thought I told you to keep this to yourself... Strange dreams aren't normal... You don't want the others calling you weird again, do you?" Dapplestone questioned, remaining in her spot. Hollowkit sat quietly and shook her head.

"They already call me weird. I only told Vulturestar..."

"*Vain*, we'll discuss this later, in your den," Dapplestone said to him, trying to finish what she came here for.

"No, *mother*. Mistreatment of clan members is against DarkClan laws, along with covering conspiracy and handling Medicine cat herbs," Vulturestar said through gritted teeth. She smiled at him then tilted her head.

"Go Vain. Don't be foolish, I know what's best for kits... that's my job..."

"Yet, you couldn't save Tulip."

"That has no relevance, *Vain*."

"It has the utmost relevance, *mother*."

"Excuse, us Hollowkit. Eat the herbs while we're gone, and I won't have to tell the kits what you dreamed about," she said trying to stay on topic and address the mutiny of her son.

"Yes, Dapplestone."

"Don't eat that! I'm your leader and I forbid you to.."

"Yes, Vulturestar," Hollowkit corrected herself. Dapplestone sent her a stern glare but realized fixing her son was more important.

"Fine. Hollowkit, go play. Us, *Leaders*, have business to discuss.."

Hollowkit wasn't no time and she quickly limped past Dapplestone and into the camp's center. Vulturestar watched her go, and was somehow taken off guard when his mother batted him across the cheek.

"Who in fox-dung do you think you are? To address me in such a heinous way... *I am your mother!* You shall respect me as such, you ungrateful, useless... Mutt!"

"*You* killed them! *You* killed innocent kits, *DarkClan* blood for the sake of you half-clan gingers!"

"They are my children..."

"And your children are more worth then others?" Vulturestar asked with a disgusted tone. *She is not my mother.. she's not Dapplestone...*

"*Yes*! Only SkyClan blood, the blood of *your* ancestors... the blood of *true* warriors will only thrive."

"You're insane!"

"No, Vain..."

"That's not my name!" He shouted charging toward her. She wasn't expecting it, as he batted her against the stone walls of the nursery, and she fell to the floor. She was dead or unconscious, neither idea made Vulturestar care. "My name is Vulturestar... and I was born in *MountainClan*, and thrived in *DarkClan*... And I shall *never* go back

to the days before. Never again."

After Vulturestar dragged Dapplestone to her nest, he checked her injury and found no blood. *She's probably not dead...* He silently sighed, seeing as that she would certainly wake up and the clan would be thrown into chaos. He only had until sundown so he spared no time.

"Twistedfoot, come with me."

The Tom silently obliged and they set out of camp, for somewhere quiet. When they had arrived near a patch of heather, he glanced around then met Twistedfoot's confused gaze.

"Things are out of control.."

"Oh! I had no idea," Twistedfoot said sarcastically until his expression turned into a grin. "What're we going to do then?"

"You need to go to LakeClan and plea for help for an invasion. That's the only way to get these kits out of here safely. Dapplestone had already killed Maliceflame's kits, if she sees Sleetpool's or Rosejay's litters as threats, she won't hesitate," Vulturestar explained roughly. He felt himself beginning to pace, and his fur rose on his back. Defying his parents, would be the first step in everything. Dethroning them could ruin the clans forever, or save it.

"I'll need someone.. but you'll have to stay here, and so will Sleetpool... If we cause suspicion, it's over. He already hates me.. We'll need one of his own cats, a cat that he found in the dumpsters," Twistedfoot explained.

"Dragonstone," Vulturestar realized.

"Are you sure?"

"Completely. I could sense his worry when I spoke with him today. Cats don't enjoy the change, and the freedom that's being taken away from them," he explained. He figured he could find many of the former DarkClan cats, still loyal. "I'll contact Graystar, to get ahold of RogueClan. We need as much of a distraction as possible tonight. If Thunderstar senses any plan, it'll be over. If we don't stop

him tonight, you'll have to take the DarkClan cats still with us, and get out. Or they'll pay the price..."

"What about you? What about your father?" Twistedfoot questioned, worried for Vulturestar. *Could he do it?*

"Let me worry about him. Hurry and get help. We have to do this all before Dapplestone wakes up!"

As Twistedfoot and Dragonstone raced to LakeClan territory, Gem was already there. The only tree on LakeClan territory, was a large Willow, closet to the shore. RogueClan decided to take naps there, and she was happy that they did.

As soon as she closed her eyes, she awoke in the shadowy forest where Graystar dwelled. No one knew what it truly was, but Gem only went there recently to communicate with a cat named Graystar.

"RogueClan needs to attack," he said from the shadows. He seemed to afraid to enter into the one patch of light.

"Why?"

"You'll have help. Your father has finally come to his senses, and now you can take the first steps in destroying StormClan..."

"They'll never get close, Graystar!" A familiar voice shouted from across the forest. He turned his head and scowled.

"Of course you'd say that! Aren't you forgetting, Voidstar, that this is Gem.."

"Voidstar!" The she cat burst through the shadows and stalked over to Gem, carrying a smirk on her face. She lashed her tail, but made no other move besides slinking back into the shadows. Only her bright yellow eyes were visible.

"So, how are you? Daughter of Vulturestar, now a rebellious rogue trying to make a name for herself. It's going to be a great story sweetheart, especially when you die in the end," Voidstar whispered before her lips formed into a wide grin. She laughing with menace

before spitting on her then stalking away.

"Let me know how it goes, Graystar," the she cat said before disappearing into the shadows. Graystar turned toward Gem with sigh.

"I know I've done controversial things, but we have one common goal. We need to stop Thunderstar, stop his ideals, and place the clans as they were before. It's the only way anyone will ever achieve peace," he explained throughly.

"Okay. What's needed of RogueClan?"

"Get ready. And attack tonight. You'll still have insiders from DarkClan... And beware. Thunderstar sniffs out rebellion before it becomes one. That's why he sent you and Shadow away, and why he's wants to talk to Vulturestar about his deputy choices..."

"Twistedfoot?"

"Ah, you've kept in touch. I suppose Thunderstar will know very soon, if he doesn't already.."

"I have to go!" Gem decided and made herself wake up. When she was awake, she glanced around the base of the willow tree. Llewyn sat fiddling with his tail, Shadow was sprawled across a branch lazily, Maliceflame was staring at the lake and Hawk was gnawing a bone.

"Guys, we have a mission. We have to go to LakeClan now and strike StormClan quickly..."

"Why? Those kits have no relevance to us nor LakeClan. Why waste lives?" Llewyn questioned boldly. Maliceflame scoffed. *What's relevant to that bogus brain?* She thought.

"We won't waste lives. We're better then that. This is about stopping further war. My sources have told me that the DarkClan warriors of StormClan are on our side... if so, we can take Thunderstar down before this even reached MountainClan and CaveClan," Gem explained with a heroic feeling to it. She had to confront Thunderstar, whatever happened. She wanted to prove him wrong

about her.

"Maybe we don't need LakeClan. Our distraction should take most Warriors out of camp. And, I have a feeling LakeClan won't want to help us," Maliceflame pointed out as they pointed out the good and bad.

"She's right. We shouldn't waste our time," Hawk said adamantly.

"Fine," Gem settled with a sigh. "Maliceflame, you'll take Hawk and Shadow through their territory. Word will go quick, and you'll become the main attention. I trust that Thunderstar will be there. Llewyn, you'll get the kits willing to come, and I'll take down Thunderstar..."

"No way! You're half my size Gem! You'll never survive," Shadow pointed out defiantly. He cared for his half sister, but he cared about getting revenge on Thunderstar more.

"You don't understand. He wouldn't hesitate killing you, but I mess with him. He said it last time we were there, he let us go. This is his game, and if we play it right, we win," Gem declared confidently. They all shared hopeful expressions, and were about to set off when another voice broke the air.

"You're not facing Thunderstar. Not by my watch!"

"It's not your call, *Twistedfoot*."

"We're not letting you be stupid. Thunderstar could give a rat's dirt about you," he snapped. She flipped her face to meet the gray eyes of Twistedfoot.

"Get out of here, *StormClan* filth.."

"It's *DarkClan* filth, rogues," Twistedfoot muttered, with a small grin. He had never been of StormClan, and hated everything about it. *Why can't she see that?*

"Did my father send you?"

"Yes. It's happening as soon as we make it back to camp."

"I'm not going anywhere under his orders," she spat stubbornly. Shadow growled and started at Gem.

"Get over yourself. Twistedfoot, you and Dragonstone better head back before us," Shadow advised.

"No. Someone has to take the fall for Vulturestar if it doesn't work," Twistedfoot said in an implying tone. Gem spun around and glared at him.

"You owe him nothing. He kidnapped you and your siblings and forced you into DarkClan! Why do you care so mug about him!"

"Why don't you, Gem? Did he really do that much harm to you..."

"He killed my mother! In front of me!"

"He killed my mother too. The only difference is that she has 7 lives left. But I hate her all the same."

"You're ridiculous," she spat hatefully. He was so ignorant of her feelings.

"And you're acting like a kit..."

"You're both being dumb-butts!" Shadow yelled silencing them both. Llewyn and Hawk laughed at the foreign phrase. "What? I learned it from Bushpaw.."

"Focus. Let's go."

Thank you for reading.
Vulturestar's dream was written by CeRosette.

Recently, my friend CeRosette has gotten lots of people asking tons of questions about stuff... That's awesome that you're interacting and getting to know CeRosette, the awesome, but getting in good with her, WILL NOT save your cat from death.

In fact, CeRosette wants me to kill more cats! Then I usually have

planned.

If you want to write a section for a chapter, let me know.

Chapter 56

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Spiderstar- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Deputy: Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:

Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Morningpoppy- a yellow tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. She has flame colored ears and black paws.

Apprentices:
Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Stormchaser

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Spiderstar

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. Expecting Raspyhowl's kits.

Kits:
Olivekit- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 3 moons.

Crimsonkit- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. 3 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 4 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 4 moons.

Tawnykit- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. 4 moons.

Elder:

Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Expecting Stormchaser's kits.

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:

Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail.

Apprentices:
Fairpaw- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Cinderstorm

Silverpaw- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes. Mentor: Frostycloud

Palepaw- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes. Mentor: Shymask

Earthpaw- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Timberpaw- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes. Mentor: Sootfall

Oceanpaw- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes. Mentor: Shiftclaw

Kits:
Nightkit- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes.

Blazekit- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes.

Flarekit- a golden tabby Tom with Amber eyes.

Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. 2 moon.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. 2 moon.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. 2 moon.

StormClan-

Leaders: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Deputies: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Medicine cat: Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like

stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:

Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Hunters:

Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his

legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.

Messengers:

Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes.

Lotusfoot- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Queen of the Clan:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with Emerald green eyes. Expecting Redstar's and Thunderstar's kits.

Queens:

Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Kits: Steelkit (tom), Bluekit (she cat), Snakekit (Tom), and Moonkit (Tom).

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Kits: Hailkit (Tom), Swiftkit (Tom), and Pebblekit (Tom)

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 4 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 4 moons.

Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 4 moons.

Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 3 moons.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 3 moons.

Eaglekit- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Cherrykit- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. 3 moons.

Rustkit- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. 3 moons.

Firekit- a ginger-orange furred Tom with violet eyes. 3 moons.

Robinkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. 3 moons.

Hollowkit- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. 2 moons.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:

Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes.

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white

speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful.

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue.

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. Around 34 moons.

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. 17 moons.

Apprentices:

Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Otterpaw- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. Mentor: Rockfall

Lightningpaw- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. Mentor: Maplewood

Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Badgerclaw

Marshpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. Mentor: Moondust

Kits:
Finchkit- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. 4 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 4 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 4 moons.

Dawnkit- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. 5 moons.

Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 5 moons.

RogueClan-

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes. Around 10 moons.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes. Around 10 moons.

Hawk- a grey thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes. Around 10 moons.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes. Around 30 moons.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes. Around 40 moons.

Water filled his lungs, violently, and the attacker was relentless. Lostpath kicked and squirmed but the cat holding him down, wouldn't give in. He screamed into the water but the sound was muffled and inaudible.

When everything seemed to go dark, paws brought him out and onto the shore. He coughed profusely as someone spoke over him.

"Miserable. Your performance was miserable today, Lostpath. If you can't survive your own clan mates... how do you expect to survive the threats of the Mountain?" Thunderstar growled pushing his face into the mud of the beach. Lostpath hissed and stood rose to his paws.

"I don't need this, Thunderstar! I'd like to see you try fighting in deep water," Lostpath snapped. The leader loudly laughed, drawing all the Warrior's attention. Then, he turned to Lostpath with his one eye, narrowed.

"Last time I checked, I was the leader, and you were not and barely still part of this clan. Actually, because of my generosity, you're still here..."

"Don't give me that fox's dung, Thunderstar! You're using me! You're using all of us! For what, your forestry kingdom with your perfect mate, son and heirs! While we follow you like everything is perfect... right?"

"Where is this coming from Lostpath? I'm afraid, you don't seem well.."

"You killed her Thunderstar. Right in front of me. Now, she's whose knows where. I've lived in this clan in fear, but now I've realized, this isn't the legacy I want. I don't want to be remembered as everyone's pawn... so that's why I'm finished with you," Lostpath declared in a long, obviously thought out decision. The other Warriors were dead silent, as Thunderstar glanced up from his paws with a smile.

"Are you done?" Thunderstar asked with a chuckle. Lostpath frowned until Thunderstar flipped around with out-lashed claws. Lostpath easily evaded it, and leaped into the shallow waters.

"Are you too afraid, O great Thunderstar?" Lostpath mocked as he splashed around in the water. Thunderstar was silent and bore no expression to his comments.

"Sprucestrike, battle practice is over for today. However, Moonbliss and Fierceclaw shall wait until Lostpath decides he wants to be a

warrior, and not a fish," Thunderstar snorted before taking off to camp with his deputy. The two silently obliged and waited at the shore, as Lostpath waded in the water.

As they trotted back to camp, Hawk watched on from afar and grimaced. The size of the group was large, so he'd need to make a loud dash.

"For... whatever!" He shouted as he took off down the hill. Hawk's paws were so quickly that he almost glided over the meadow. Hawk let out a sharp howl and the cats immediately whipped their heads around. He headed straight for Thunderstar.

The expression on Thunderstar's face was of pure surprise, as Hawk leaped right over the leader, and past him in a skip. Thunderstar grunted and quickly faced Sprucestrike.

"I'm heading back to camp. You handle him, and the ones coming," he ordered with little patience. For once, Thunderstar was caught off guard.

"Airflight, go!"

The runner had been brought on the patrol in case this situation had happened. Airflight took off, but Hawk was also fast and far ahead. Next, Shadow and Maliceflame took off, confident they could take on a patrol without Thunderstar and minus three warriors.

Maliceflame collided with Sprucestrike and nipped at his legs, as he nipped at her spine. Their battle was viscous, but they were equally matched. Shadow leaped onto Tigerstorm, and they rolled past. Dragonstone decided it was now or never, and pounced onto Bubblefur. She was ready however, and surged forward attempting to bite his neck.

Hawk turned his path, raced past Airflight, and toward Shadow. The Tom was now struggling with Tigerstorm and Poisonberry, two highly elite warriors. They were about to deliver the killing blow, when Hawk pummeled right into them, throwing everyone off course.

"Thanks," Shadow panted briefly before he slashed at Poisonberry.

"No problem. We're a team," Hawk replied, coming to his paws. He quickly became drawn into a battle with Tigerstorm. Airflight, seeing Dragonstone cornering Bubblefur, broke forward and batted him across the face.

"Traitor," he spat, happening to save Bubblefur in the meantime. The she cat gleamed, relieved that he was the Tom to come to the rescue.

"This clan is ludicrous, don't you see that?" Dragonstone asked, honestly. Airflight and Bubblefur wouldn't have any of it, and the battle continued. The battle with RogueClan, still continued with everyone, but Thunderstar was just making it back to camp.

"Dapplestone!" He called out, as he entered camp. No response... Thunderstar immediately felt threatened and darted to the nursery. Only kits, Rosejay, and Sleetpool were present. "Where is she!"

"I'm sorry, we haven't seen here since this morning. Is everything alright?" Rosejay asked. The queens and the kits felt the intensity fill the air. Their leader spat, and stalked over to his den.

Sure enough, Dapplestone's tortoiseshell self lay unconscious, in the middle of the den. Thunderstar raced in and placed his law against her chest. It slowly rose and fell, which was a good sign. If he lost Dapplestone, their plans could not be fully realized.

"She's much prettier like that.."

"Very clever of you. You think like a true Warrior, *Gempaw*."

"I think like a true rogue. No cat should be bound to leaders, laws, and standards. Our lives should be what we make of them, not what our fathers and our fathers do..."

"Oh Gempaw. You think you're ordinary, but have had an unfortunate upbringing. The truth is, that you are destined to make a fool of yourself, or make something great of yourself. You have a destiny, and today you'll fully realize what that is," Thunderstar explained with a depth. She did not follow his words, but he

seemed to eat to go on.

"You could either continue to make a fool of yourself by striking me with your paw, *or*, you can realize that a true mind as yours belongs among the best. You belong among StormClan..."

"You're asking me to join you? Who do you think I am?"

"You're the blood of a simple kittypet, and the SkyClan line... creating the most intriguing cat your age. When I cast you and Shadowpaw out, I was expecting you would end up captured very soon and we'd finish your executions. But no, you grew from your exile, and formed a group of rogues that are probably surviving against my highly trained Warriors at the moment. As I said before, you belong in StormClan." The words hit hurt with a nasty effect and she shook her head. Then she sent him a glare before spitting at his paws.

"It's Gem. And a rogue, is always a rogue," she muttered. Thunderstar sighed and prepared to raise his claw, when a powerful blur shot up from behind Dapplestone, and toward Thunderstar. The leader fell back in disgust and kicked the attacker off with his powerful hind legs.

"Dad!"

"Is everyone rebelling today? For LightClan's sake, let's handle this without surprises, I'm getting to old."

Vulturestar feebly came to his paws and briefly glanced at Gem.

"I didn't need your help," she snapped.

"Shut it. Thunderstar, we need to *talk*."

"Oh by all means, son. Let it out, we might as well have a long, long discussion of our feelings! Then, I can pick on the bones of all the cats that have turned on me today," Thunderstar chuckled in a bit of sarcasm. He sat back, highly amused in the anticipation of what would come of this.

"All my life, I've wanted to lead as you did and be just like you.

That's what would make you happy right? I thought you were dead for more then 9 moons of my life! Wishing I could've saved Tulip or you. Then, you come back, alive! Everything was supposed to be great but it's been thrown into chaos, *father*. You have dishonored *my* clan, you've lied to me, you pressured me into killing my mate, you've killed too many to count, and more then once you have threatened *my* children! You are no father, and I am taking back this clan once and for all!"

"How touching," Thunderstar muttered bearing a desolate and cold expression. "Blood before Clan, *Vain*. I tried to tell you. Blood before Clan."

"Gem, get out," Vulturestar hissed standing between his father and his daughter. Thunderstar's claws slipped out and he tilted his head, staring at Gem coldly.

"Yes. Run along dear. Daddy and I have orders to attend to... Like which one of your children to kill first!"

Vulturestar rammed into Thunderstar right away, but his father was massive. He clawed at his sons pelt and he hissed, throwing his father off. Next Thunderstar barred his fangs and lashed his tail violently.

"You want daddy time? Here it is!" He roared, as he raked his claws across Vulturestar's face. The flesh was drawn with the claws and his son snarled before nipping at his legs. Thunderstar however, was strong, and bit his neck deeply at the same time. Vulturestar whimpered and dropped to the cold den floor as his father glanced over him.

"Surely your mother taught you better then this! Nevertheless, I'm only taking one of your lives, so that you can witness history when I kill all your living heirs. Your line will officially be, decimated, after tonight.."

"No," Vulturestar murmured, as he began to cough up blood. His was losing his live, and here was nothing he could do.

"I'll start with Shadow... he's the oldest, right? Or maybe the kits..."

Thunderstar menaced. After Vulturestar's tremors began, he exited the den and spotted three traitors attempting to save the kits. Gem, Twistedfoot, and Llewyn were among them and would soon face more resistance.

"Hurry up! Out of the camp, Llewyn will lead you!" Gem told a group of them. Cherrykit and Vicekit were the only two of their litters who refused to go. Thunderstar stalked toward the kits and immediately found a small orange furred kit.

"Ah, Firekit. Redstar's... you'll have to go," he said. Thunderstar fell graves the kits by the scruff, and launched him against the stone walls of the camp. The kit fell limp to the ground, and Rosejay screamed at the sight. Although it was not hers, she couldn't bare to see the horror behold in front of her.

"Stay away from them!" Sleetpool demanded with a threatening glare. Thunderstar faked a yawn, then caught a small speckled pelt. He sent her a shrug, then caught Pebblekit under his paws. One scream sounded from Sleetpool as Thunderstar crushed the kit with his paws. Rosejay couldn't contain herself and began sobbing.

"YOU MONSTER!" Gem screamed shooting forward. Thunderstar stepped to one side and evaded her charge, but she wasn't taking it. She wanted his blood on her claws. Gem ducked as his next slash came then rolled under and kicks his belly with her hind legs. Lazy, Thunderstar did take the hit, but his fighting was becoming sloppy.

"GEM! Let's go!" Twistedfoot screamed, as he almost grabbed her by the scruff. The kits who cared were raving out of camp at this point, for fear of their lives. To his dismay, Thunderstar did not get his hands on one of Vulturestar's children.

Just as the attackers left, his warriors returned. They weren't severely wounded, but were, mentally when they saw the ruins in camp. Gossips flew around but Thunderstar wasn't in the mood.

"Listen up. We were attacked. We survived but we have rebels living among us. And I want them, found, and killed. Future traitors, leave now..."

There was a long silence until a weak Vulturestar limped out of the leader's den. He sent his father a state full of hate, before he limped out of camp.

Sleetpool stood and walked over to her dead son. She grabbed him back the scruff and walked out of camp, followed by the two other toms of her litter. Fierceclaw also followed his family. Rainpool, seeing her father and mentor leave, decided that she had to follow them. She was loyal to them.

Lotusfoot, driven by impulse, also left. He admired RogueClan and was planning on that life if he could.

Twistedfoot, Gem and RogueClan had also already faded along with Lostpath. The only kits left were Rosejay's litter, Vulturestar's three sons, Vicekit, and Cherrykit. Rosejay stayed in fear and hope that Thunderstar would overcome this madness. He hasn't hurt one of her kits yet so she had faith.

Sprucestrike glanced over to Ivysong, and saw she hadn't left. *Did she change her mind?*

"The cats that left us, including Vulturestar, will now be our enemies after tonight. And we will not show mercy," Thunderstar declared over the remaining clan. After he cast a glance across the clan, he retired to his den to check on Dapplestone.

"Thunderstar, it's Vulturestar. Something has got to him," she muttered in a dazed state. The pain in her forehead was powerful, but Thunderstar's pas hurt more as he batted her across the face.

"I entrusted you in raising our heir, and you have failed terribly. If I do not had loyalty across my ranks, you know what will become of us," Thunderstar growled as he paced. His hunches were tense and his fur was on high.

"I'm sorry. He found out about the kits.. and I don't know what got to him. There's another heir, Thunderstar. This isn't the end of the line," Dapplestone said trying to sooth his thoughts. She could catch a small tear roll down his face.

"He thinks I'm a monster.. He thinks I'm like Graystar. That son of mine will discover I'm not," Thunderstar swore to himself before letting out a hiss. He pulled himself back from tears as Dapplestone stroke her tail against his neck.

"You're not like him. You're smarter, more loyal, more clever, more ambitious, and you love your kits more then any other cat. If they don't understand your difficult choices, they'll suffer in the end," she praised before licking the space between his ears.

"We'll need a new plan... Tonight was just RogueClan cats and our own," he though silently. "We can use tonight as an excuse to launch our attack on MountainClan. They'll offer refuge to anyone, so take their clan, we take the upper paw."

"Yes. And the water assault can be used.."

"Perhaps. We kill Spiderstar, Jaggedclaw and Horsetail. Anyone else who continues to oppose, will falter and fall. Then CaveClan, where we'll let Cinderstar live, if he gives up Shymask. And finally, we'll take LakeClan and kill Shadowstar."

"I'm glad we got that wrapped up. But we can't have the battle until my litter comes. I can swim better then anyone so I need to be there."

"Very well. Love, I hate to inform you that I unfortunately killed Firekit while dealing with our son. And the others.. ran away. Perhaps we shouldn't bother so much about Redstar's litter and we should worry about our second litter. The litter I haven't met yet."

"Yes. Though, I'm not sure which you're the father off..."

"What do you mean?" Thunderstar questioned seriously. She gave him an uneasy expression and he rolled his eyes.

"I had to mate with him also, so some are yours, some are his.."

"Whose the heir, *love?* That's the only one who matters."

"Thornpaw."

R.I.P. FIREKIT

This orange furred Tom kit was a really energetic one. He was always ready to defend his clan. He was killed at the claw of Thunderstar who was in a mad rage at the time.

He will be remembered. foreverginger_14

R.I.P. PEBBLEKIT

Sleetpool's son and a handsome Tom kit, you tried to be true to your clan. But at one moon old, you couldn't have defended yourself against the strength of Thunderstar.

We will remember you, Pebblekit.

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting. The countdown to the end has begun.

Chapter 57

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Spiderstar- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Deputy: Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Medicine cat:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.
Apprentice:
Bushpaw- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:
Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Morningpoppy- a yellow tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. She has flame colored ears and black paws.

Apprentices:

Blitzpaw- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes. Mentor: Feathershade

Thornpaw- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes. Mentor: Stormchaser

Tallpaw- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Spiderstar

Tinypaw- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes. Mentor: Raspyhowl

Riverpaw- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes. Mentor: Swiftfawn

Sunpaw- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes. Mentor: Jaggedclaw

Brinepaw- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin. Mentor: Flamespirit

Queen:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. Expecting Raspyhowl's kits.

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 4 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 4 moons.

Eaglekit- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Rustkit- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. 3 moons.

Robinkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. 3 moons.
Olivekit- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 3 moons.

Crimsonkit- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. 3 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 4 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 4 moons.

Tawnykit- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. 4 moons.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Kits: Wildkit (Tom), Commitkit (she cat), Aurakit (she cat), and Phantomkit (Tom)

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail.

Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes.

Palesky- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes.

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes.

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes.

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. Mentor: Spottedpelt

Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes. Mentor: Sparrowfeather

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Kits:
Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. 2 moon.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. 2 moon.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. 2 moon.

StormClan-

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be.

The other eye is piercing yellow.

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat: Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Hunters:
Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes.

Queen of the Clan:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with Emerald green eyes. Expecting Redstar's and Thunderstar's kits.

Queen:
Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Kits: Steelkit (tom), Bluekit (she cat), Snakekit (Tom), and Moonkit (Tom).

Kits:
Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 4 moons.

Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 3 moons.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 3 moons.

Cherrykit- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. 3 moons.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes.

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful.

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue.

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. Around 34 moons.

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. 17 moons.

Apprentices:
Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Otterpaw- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. Mentor: Rockfall

Lightningpaw- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. Mentor: Maplewood

Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one.

Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Badgerclaw

Marshpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. Mentor: Moondust

Kits:
Finchkit- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. 4 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 4 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 4 moons.

Dawnkit- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. 5 moons.

Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 5 moons.

RogueClan-

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber eyes.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His

left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Kits: Hailkit (Tom), and Swiftkit (Tom)

Hollowkit- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. 2 moons.

"The herb I'm thinking of, can be used on bee and wasp stings. It's petals are purple and its leaves are a dark green.."

"Ehh.. it's... Mallow!" Bushpaw shouted as soon as it came to mind. Horsetail frowned and tapped him on the head with the tip tail.

"A cat can die in the minute you were thinking of the herb.."

"Cats can't die from stings!"

"What about spider and snake bites?" Horsetail questioned rapidly. He had to make sure to really drill him for evaluations. Sparrowfeather was naturally a perfectionist, so teaching her was easy. But Bushpaw, was a light hearted and fun-loving, chubby Tom, who had trouble sticking on the task. Luckily, Olivekit would be an apprentice in two moons and able to keep him in line.

"Um, I'm pretty sure spiders kill you. I heard that this one guy, got bit from his spider named Natasha and he almost died! Isn't that.."

"Ridiculous? Yes! So please focus.. what in LightClan is a Natasha.."

"A spider," Bushpaw replied with a wide smile. Horsetail frowned, but it slowly turned into a grin.

"Next one. What is the purpose of Thyme?"

"It calms down cats after they jump off cliffs.."

"What! No! It just calms them down from shock. Are you alright? Where are you getting this things from? You haven't had root in a week!" Horsetail asked with wide eyes. Bushpaw's strange sayings was beginning to worry him.

"Who needs root, when you can have Blitzpaw..."

"Snap back, Loverpaw! Last question. Here are two herbs. One is Yarrow, that is quite disgusting, and the other is catmint, which is a rare and delicious commodity. You must close your eyes, and decide for yourself using your nose, which one is correct. Then, you'll eat it to find the correct one.."

"How will I know?"

"No questions! Just do," Horsetail snapped turning away from his apprentice. Bushpaw sighed and closed his eyes before sniffed the herbs. Both looked like tiny flowers, one seemed more like a lilac while the other seemed like pollen. But Bushpaw knew it was their leaves that held the power to heal cats. Without a doubt, he went for the one with the little yellow buds.

"Oh, Bushpaw..."

"What," he mumble before he felt s pain in his stomach. The feeling tremors through him and his paws shook violently. Then, he threw up his lunch. Horsetail patted his back gently until Bushpaw was finished.

"Are you alright? That was yarrow, it makes cats throw up. But it's very vital cats who eat poisonous plants... spelling of which, have I mentioned the forbidden herbs?"

"No. What are they?"

"Some herbs can do good, but some can do bad. You must keep cats away from poison ivy, poison oak, hemlock and the worst... death berries. Any use of the death berries is forbidden, because they can kill a cat with one touch," Horsetail explained quietly. Bushpaw's jaw gaped in realization. *A single berry could kill a cat? So can nine berries bring down a leader...*

"Couldn't they use it to stop Thunderstar? Or any bad cat!"

"NO!" Horsetail immediately silenced him. He slowly composed himself. "The use of such powerful weapons is forbidden. It has always been the medicine cat's job to protect the usage. We find death berries in the forest, and dispose of them. If there ever comes a time where the usage of death berries must be used, the medicine cat may only do it, and the medicine cat must die with the secret. It's law," Horsetail whispered briefly. His apprentice looked at his paws, and glanced up at him.

"So... Will I get my name now?!"

"Perhaps. Let me consult Spiderstar beforehand. We usually name all the apprentices at once so there's no favoritism," Horsetail said briefly.

"But I'm everyone's favorite anyway..."

By the time he said that, Horsetail was out of the den and heading for Spiderstar. Bushpaw followed him out but quickly saw his friends and stopped eat their excited reviews of the day.

"I caught the biggest squirrel!" Bltizpaw shrieked with a grin.

"Well, I beat Thornpaw in battle, for the first time!" Tallcloud cheered at the fact he had finally beat his sister. Of course, he had luck on his side and it wasn't going to default Thornpaw, but it still felt good.

"Really?" Tinypaw asked with a scoff. Her brother nodded adamantly before recalling the series of events. As Tinypaw and Tallpaw compared battle stories, Bushpaw sighed an turned to Blitzpaw.

"I puked up herb.."

"That's not as bad as the last evaluations... when you got stung by those hornets or the time you found a porcupine nest," Blitzpaw reassured but he only chuckled.

"Do you think we'll be made Warriors?"

"We should be. I saw Fairpaw by the border the other day, and he said he was made Fairshade. Oh! And my mom had her second litter.."

"That's great! My mom's dead... How many are in the litter?"

"Four. Two toms and two she cats. They're going to do great in CaveClan," she sighed and Bushpaw sighed also in imitation. They exchanged glances and both giggled.

After sharing a mouse, it wasn't long before all the mentors had spoken to Spiderstar, and the ceremony was to begin. Ashkit, who had been saved from StormClan only five days ago, made sure to wish his father good luck. Along with Ashkit, RogueClan had also saved Bonekit, Eaglekit, Robinkit and Rustkit. Sadly, Firekit had passed in the midst of battle, and Cloudfire had to explain to them how Firekit was with their father now, in LightClan.

"Bushpaw. Since you're a medicine cat, do you think you can use your super-powers to let me speak with Firekit and daddy? They've missed so much!" Rustkit begged with a hopeful heart. *If anyone can help, its Bushpaw*. But to his dismay, Bushpaw couldn't help. He didn't have any super powers that could help bring back his family.

"I'm sorry Rustkit, but I don't know if I can. But, maybe one day you'll share dreams with LightClan and you'll see your brother. Not today though.."

"Okay.. I guess I can wait. Thanks Bushpaw!"

"You're so good with kits," Blitzpaw giggled with a loving smirk. He laughed and glanced at her.

"Nobody is going to make a better queen then you," he declared

adamantly. She looked down at her paws.

"You see Bushpaw, I've been meaning to tell you something.." Blitzpaw began to say when Bushpaw turned to focus on Spiderstar. She sighed and did the same. *It'll have to wait...*

"Cats of MountainClan! Today, we celebrate the coming of new Warriors. Thornpaw, would you please step forward," Spiderstar projected calmly. The gray tabby she cat stepped forward, and glanced up at Spiderstar with her dark blue eyes. "I'm sorry that you never finished your apprenticeship with Redstar, but you his legacy will certainly live on in you. Do you promise to uphold the MountainClan law?"

"I do."

"Then from this day forward, you shall be known as Thornfrost. LightClan honors your commitment and excellence," he replied solemnly. She smiled and bowed her head. The clan cheered her name, and she felt goals of her life, accomplish themselves. She didn't quite know what was next, however.

"Tallpaw, step forward." The tall black and white Tom smiled and jumped around in a hyper state. "You too, lost your first mentor unjustly, but I was proud to serve you when I could. Do you promise to uphold the MountainClan law?"

"I do," he rambled off quickly. Horsetail tried to keep himself from cracking up, while Spiderstar just grinned.

"From this day forward you will be know as..." *Tallfang, Talltalon, Tallear? No that's gross. Tallbutt, ha.* "Tallcloud."

"IM A FOX DUNGING CLOUD! YES!"

"Um.. LightClan honors your enthusiasm, creativity and charisma.. Sunpaw, please step forward. Even though you were relatively new when you started your training here, you've shown great skills and you have a promising future. Do you promise to uphold the MountainClan law for as long as you live?"

"I do."

"From this day forward, you shall be known as Suntail. LightClan honors your commitment and heart. Riverpaw!"

The she cat also stepped forward, and her brother gleamed with pride. His sister was all grown up with a neat and gorgeous features. Willowbreeze also glared on with much family pride.

"Riverpaw, you have been an excellent apprentice and a good friend. You are truly something special. Do you promise to uphold the MountainClan law?" Spiderstar asked accordingly. He tried to throw something in special for each one. Because they were all, special and close to the clan.

"I do!"

"From this day forward, you shall be known as Rivertail. LightClan honors your commitment and wisdom. Brinepaw.." The she cat stepped forward. Brinepaw had groomed her pelt and shared a tasty squirrel with Rivertail before this, but it just didn't feel right.

"You were not here from the beginning, but you have become a valued and kind hearted Warrior. Do you promise to uphold the MountainClan law?"

"I do."

"From this day forward you shall be know as Brinestorm. LightClan honors your kindness and bravery.." Bushpaw shifted next to Blitzpaw and Tinypaw, who were all becoming anxious. What if I don't become a warrior.. Tinypaw worried silently, knowing she was the runt and the least likely to pass evaluations. She thought she did alright but maybe she didn't. "Blitzpaw.."

"I do! Bushpaw and Tinypaw gotta go today!" She immediately requested vey politely. Blitzpaw then stepped forward. Horsetail frowned at the breaking of procedure but Spiderstar shrugged. *Everyone is falling asleep...*

"From this day forward, you shall be know as Blitzfire. LightClan honors your kindness and loyalty. Tinypaw, step forward."

The black furred she cat smiled widely and hurried forward. She

had been working and worrying about this day her whole life. If only mother was here.

"Tinypaw, you have proved valiant in effort and commitment. Your efforts never cease to impress me. Do you promise to uphold the MountainClan law as long as you should live?"

"Of course I do!"

"Then you shall be known as Tinyfear. For your size is tiny, but your heart and fortitude surpass many.."

After Tinyfear ran back to the others. Bushpaw glanced around. Everyone had seemed to forgotten about him.

"HORSETAIL! Hello?" Bushpaw shouted out to his mentor. He spun to face him and scoffed.

"What makes you think you're ready?"

"I've worked my tail off the past moon! I haven't had any," Bushpaw caught himself and began to rephrase it. "Fun! And I am totally ready to be a medicine cat! Yeesh. I had to puke a very good mouse out, today. And I had to keep your *stupid* secrets.." Horsetail have him a stern glare, but Spiderstar jumped down with wide eyes.

"What secret?"

Bushpaw was about to give everything away about the berries, when he remembered what Horsetail said. Bummer.. I guess I'll just have to go drown away in purple root. "Sorry it's a secret. Later, *Horsetail*.."

"Bushpaw, step forward!"

"Whhaaaaa?"

"You passed evaluations. With a lot of disrespectful spunk," Horsetail smirked but on the inside, he was proud. Bushpaw gasped and shot forward with his paw held up.

"I pledge allegiance to the clan, of the mountain of the lake. And to

the democracy for which it stands, one LightClan, indivisible, with liberty, justice and purple root for all!" Bushpaw cheered. The rest of the clan sat silent, frozen at what had just occurred. Until Tallcloud busted out laughing. The rest of the clan followed, but Horsetail sat silently until the silence returned.

"From this day forward, you shall be know as Bushwind. For you're not quite based in one place. Your mind rolls like the wind," Horsetail explained with a wide smile. He then stepped down and whispered, "I'm proud of you."

Blitzfire met Bushwind next with a smile. Tallcloud then came up but was in a rush.

"Rivertail invited me to go swimming with her! Night swimming! Dude, besides you and my warrior name, this is the best thing ever! I'll see you guys later," Tallcloud rambled once more before following Rivertail out of camp.

"So Bushwind..."

"You're pregnant!"

"No way! Why would you think that?" She asked with a grin. He laughed and rolled onto his belly.

"I'm a certified medicine cat, now.. Just kidding. You're getting fat."

"Oh Bushwind," she replied pressing her nose against his.

"Oh, Blitzfire."

"Dear LightClan, help us," Horsetail murmured to himself after hearing their words of love. It had been so long since he loved, and he had no problem with it. But, it was nauseating to see others, especially young cats.

Meanwhile, other cars were adapting to the changes of their clan. CaveClan had made their apprentices Warriors before MountainClan, so the young cats were just becoming adjusted to their names.

Timberfall was especially fond of his. Because his mentor, Sootfall, was such a good friend of his, he thought it only suitable to always have a part of him with him at all times. However, other complications were getting in the way.

His good friend, Slivershell, almost the prettiest she cat of the clan, was hanging out with Shiftclaw more often. They went on hunting and border patrols together, and Timberfall was dreading the day they'd be official mates. He adored her, but she didn't notice him.

Nibbling at a thrush's bone, he barely noticed the anyone else. *Why does everyone leave me?* He wondered. First his parents, now one of his best friends. He wasn't convinced anything would make it better. Until he heard someone call his name.

"Hey Timberfall, come hunting with us!" Earthstripe called. Oceanheart, Palesky and she were standing at the entrance to camp. "Were going to try the fish in the streams..." All eyes were on him and he decided to make the best of it.

"Alright, I'll come along," he settled with a sigh. The she cats cheered and Oceanheart tilted his head in question.
When the she cats took the lead into the forest, Oceanheart slid back to Timberfall.

"What's the matter? You've barely said anything for a couple of days now," Oceanheart reminded him with a gentle tone. Timberfall shook his head trying to avoid the conversation. He wouldn't understand...

"I liked this she cat, but she doesn't like me. And now, I feel like fox-dung!" He almost hissed digging his paw into the ground. Oceanheart nodded in understanding and glanced him in the eye.

"Ah. Well, my father, told me the best way to get over a she cat, is to examine other beauties..."

"Who was your father?"

"Oh! Just some useless Kittypet named Benvolio. Nobody important.. The point is, there are two decent looking, but butt-

kicking she cats up there," Oceanheart whispered pointing his tail toward the she cats who were also talking amongst themselves. "Personally, I've got my eye on Palesky. But, Earthstripe isn't too bad either! So go say hi, just let your feelings go for Slivershell.."

Let it go. Timberfall told himself silently. He headed forward, chest puffed out and standing tall. Palesky and Earthstripe turned their eyes and he immediately locked eyes with Earthstripe. The she cat's emerald green eyes fell on him, and he realized how gorgeous the she cat really was. *Is this love at first sight? Or wow.* Timberfall already knew her, but it was the first time he thought of her in that way. Earthstripe turned back to Palesky, and they fell into the same conversation.

"Hey.. Is it just me, or is Timberfall really cute?" Earthstripe whispered to Palesky who chuckled.

"I don't know.. he's an acquired taste.. But we can both agree Fairshade is the most handsome Tom that ever lived!" Palesky declared, quietly. It was almost too loud, that the toms may have overheard it.

"No. Timberfall is definitely the most handsome.."

"I'm sticking with Fairshade. Though I wish he'd notice me. It seems like the only cat he ever talks about is that *Gem girl*.."

"I know! It's so annoying! She's not part of CaveClan and could care less for him!" Earthstripe added on. Even if they didn't know the RogueClan cats well, they had spent enough time on their territory to make an impact.

"Oh toms... Timberfall is coming this way," Palesky whispered before smiling nonchalantly. Of course, it looked awkward but Oceanheart found it adorable that the she cats were talking about them. He couldn't hear what it was, but he was hopeful.

"Hey Earthstripe! Why is the tiger self conscience?"

"I don't know.. what?"

"Because he looks fat in stripes. Ha, ha ha ha..ha.." Oceanheart

wanted to crumple up and die, Palesky covered her eyes with her tail, and Earthstripe just nodded, and glanced around.

"Wait! I smell RogueClan.. Not again," Earthstripe said, suddenly.

"Oh! Was it really that bad?"

"No, there really is RogueClan scents!" Palesky replied urgently. The four dashed toward the scent.

RogueClan was becoming a problem. They recruited StormClan cats, which had no respect for CaveClan's border and hunting policies. They publicly ridiculed them, and stole prey regularly, along with a portion of CaveClan's mountains.

The young Warriors eventually met a group of two cats, yet they weren't on the run. In fact, they seemed to be waiting for CaveClan.

"We need to speak with Cinderstar?" A large Tom said, turning his face. His yellow eyes gleamed at them and Palesky coiled in a hiss.

"Vulturestar! He's posing as RogueClan!"

"No, you silly children! Listen," Maliceflame shouted before siting back and letting Vulturestar speak.

"We revolted against StormClan, because his rule is ruthless. I want to restore a new DarkClan and end their terror once and for all. Is that clear? Or do I need to bother your leaders?"

"No. We'll get him the message. We don't allow non-CaveClan members into our camp anymore," Oceanheart replied calmly.

"Very well. MountainClan will be attacked in five nights. If CaveClan is not there to help, you will all fall. We will be there," Vulturestar explained briefly before turning away. The patrol swiftly began to leave but Palesky trotted after them.

"Thank you? And Vulturestar," she called out. The leader turned and faced the pale furred she cat.

"Um.. Do you happen to know the whereabouts of my mother,

Dapplestone?" Palesky asked. Last she heard, was that her mother killed Redstar and left for StormClan. But she had no way of knowing the truth.

"Dapplestone, is a kit murderer and shall be tried with the same charges as Thunderstar. Though, I am very sorry that you had the unfortunate burden of being her child. Trust me, I'd know."

Palesky glanced at her paws, and back at her friends. By the time she turned, looking for Vulturestar they were gone. *My mother... a murderer?*

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting. Plot twists are still surfacing so don't miss a chapter.

Chapter 58

[image]

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Spiderstar- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Deputy: Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Medicine cats:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:
Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Morningpoppy- a yellow tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. She has flame colored ears and black paws.

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Spiderstar

Tinyfear- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes.

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes.

Brinefur- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin.

Queen:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. Expecting Raspyhowl's kits.

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 4 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 4 moons.

Eaglekit- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Rustkit- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. 3 moons.

Robinkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. 3 moons.
Olivekit- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 3 moons.

Crimsonkit- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. 3 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 4 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 4

moons.

Tawnykit- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. 4 moons.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Kits: Wildkit (Tom), Commitkit (she cat), Aurakit (she cat), and Phantomkit (Tom)

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail.

Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes.

Palesky- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes.

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes.

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes.

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes.

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. Mentor: Spottedpelt

Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes. Mentor: Sparrowfeather

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Kits:
Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. 2 moon.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. 2 moon.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. 2 moon.

StormClan-

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be.

The other eye is piercing yellow.

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular. He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat: Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Hunters:
Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes.

Queen of the Clan:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with Emerald green eyes. Expecting Redstar's and Thunderstar's kits.

Queens:
Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Kits: Steelkit (tom), Bluekit (she cat), Snakekit (Tom), and Moonkit (Tom).

Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. Expecting Aspenfur's kits.

Kits:
Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 4 moons.

Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 3 moons.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 3 moons.

Cherrykit- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. 3 moons.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes.

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful.

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue.

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes. Around 34 moons.

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short. 17 moons.

Apprentices:

Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Otterpaw- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. Mentor: Rockfall

Lightningpaw- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. Mentor: Maplewood

Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Badgerclaw

Marshpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. Mentor: Moondust

Kits:
Finchkit- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. 4 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 4 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 4 moons.

Dawnkit- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. 5 moons.

Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 5 moons.

RogueClan-

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber

eyes.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Kits: Hailkit (Tom), and Swiftkit (Tom)

Hollowkit- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. 2 moons.

Mistypaw crouched lower against the ground. The mud had already coated her underbelly but she was determined to get this rabbit. This type of prey was rare in Lakeclan and it would help her prove her worth in this new clan. It had been around two moons now, but she was almost ready to become a warrior. To come back to camp with a rabbit, would be a great reminder. Mistypaw smiled to herself. It didn't hurt that it was Shadowstar's favorite prey either.

The brown animal stood on its hind legs with its nose twitching wildly. Mistypaw loosened her muscles excitedly. The race was on. When the rabbit lurched away from the her, Mistypaw was less than a heartbeat behind.

Four sets of paws thundered on the ground spewing mud and water as the rabbit sprinted further from Lakeclan. A strange scent struck Mistypaw's nose but she ignored it. She was too close to catching this prey.

Bunching her legs up she leapt forward onto the rabbit. She rolled sideways with the rabbit hooked in her claws. Leaning forward she bit deep into the neck. When the rabbit stopped it's fidgeting the Bengal cat pushed the rabbit off her and sprang to her paws. She smiled pleased with herself.

"And, who are you?" A deep voice sounded and a gray tom stepped forward from the shadows. His yellow eyes bored into the she-cat that was trespassing.

"I'm hunting, what else? We need food last time I checked," the tom eyed Mistypaw curiously as she replied to him. Her fur spiked in discomfort despite her confident tone, though.

"I've seen you before..." The tom's voice trailed but he picked up his thought again quickly. "Ha, I knew I did! Mistypaw? Is it? You were in Stormclan... but you left after the battle."

Mistypaw flicked her tail trying to release her anxiousness. The strange scent flooding her nose smelt dark and coppery. It almost resembled the smell of blood. Mistypaw shook the thought away and focused on tom. "Yeah, I was in Stormclan but left for Lakeclan with my mentor. Frankly I haven't regretted that decision at all! They're family over there and the cats all care for each other. Something that was lacking in your clan, last time I checked."

The tom's eyes grew slightly despairing and wistful and Mistypaw instantly felt guilty at insulting his clan.

"Sorry, I didn't mean to insult you or..." The silver she-cat's voice faded and she cleared her throat awkwardly. "You know it's probably time I headed back. Sorry again for bothering you."

Mistypaw grabbed the scruff of the rabbit and turned away. "You know...um, I can come back with you, just to your camp though of course. You know, we were clanmates once."

Mistypaw hesitated but nodded. She avoided talking due to the mouth full of fur. She started walking back to her territory and the Stormclan tom matched her pace.

"I'm Dragonstone by the way! In case you forgot.."

Mistypaw glanced at Dragonstone a little awkwardly and the problem dawned on him. "Oh, um, maybe we could take turns holding the rabbit?"

The Lakeclan apprentice nodded in agreement. Both cats stopped and Dragonstone picked up the rabbit. "So if you're exchanging late introductions then you deserve mine, too. I am, Mistypaw."

Dragonstone nodded and to avoid any long silences Mistypaw kept talking. "I joined the clans almost two moons ago. Silverfeather found me on the outskirts of the clans and brought me to Thunderstar. He gave me Silverfeather as a mentor the same time Lightpaw got Dovepool. I trained with the clan for a while. It just never felt like home though, you know? Sure, everyone was kind.. but there's this inner darkness. Thunderstar was just.." Dragonstone kept his eyes locked ahead determined not to talk behind his clans back. Mistypaw shrugged and continued. "So when the chance came to switch to a better place, I took it. Shadowstar has been good to me and my friends. There isn't anything I would change about Lakeclan, except maybe Leopardpaw's snoring. It drives us all insane at night."

Mistypaw laughed and Dragonstone chuckled a little around the rabbit. Mistypaw stopped and, catching on, the tom stopped as well handing the rabbit over to the she-cat.

"So, Mistypaw, tell me about Lakeclan. Thunderstar doesn't really share much information about how the other clans live."

Mistypaw smiled, and handed off the rabbit back to Dragonstone. "Lakeclan is amazing! The rules are fair, it's really peaceful most of the time. Plus Shadowstar is a great leader! But we don't really fight or train in combat as much as you Stormclan cats do."

She has a point, Dragonstone admitted as they traded the rabbit. His paws were still sore from the round of thorn bush navigation, the warriors had gone through.

"I guess we're antagonizing. I wouldn't know any other way to live

in a clan. I was a rogue, so this all new to me..so I guess it's normal to feel so strong? To feel like a bully? Thunderstar says you've had your chances.. and things will get better.." This had been bothering him for awhile. He didn't even know why he was sharing so much with Mistypaw, but the words kept coming.

"Do Caveclan and Mountainclan stand any sort of chance against us?" Dragonstone asked, the question more anxious than braggy. He feared the answer.

Mistypaw gave him the rabbit, and thought about how she would answer. Dragonstone didn't seem wrapped around Thunderstar's claws like the other Stormclan cats, but now days you could never tell where a cat's loyalties lie.

"Honestly? I don't know. They'd maybe stand a chance if they worked together, but the clans have grown more separated. When the time comes for us to fight, we'll probably let them takeover. We don't want war with StormClan... The past leader died that way.."

Dragonstone nodded. He felt that any other cat in Stormclan would rejoice at these words, but right now he only felt sick. He felt a need to make sure that Stormclan wouldn't hurt anymore good cats, like Cinderstar, Shadowstar, and Mistypaw....

A few tree lengths away from the two cats the reeds became more clustered and Mistypaw stopped. Dragonstone surrendered the rabbit over to the apprentice. "You should head back now. It wouldn't do either of us good for you to be seen in the camp with me."

Dragonstone nodded but hesitated to leave. "Actually.. I haven't been completely honest.."

The Bengal she-cat smile turned a bit grim and she listened for more answers. "What is it?"

Dragonstone nodded with a nervous glance. Don't blow this Dragonstone. He told himself silently. "I.. kinda.. left StormClan. And now, I don't have anywhere to go." This surprised Mistypaw in a good way. She was a bit worried on how he left, but this could be

a great opportunity for him.

"Come back to LakeClan with me! You'll have to convince Shadowstar, but, it's better then having no home," Mistypaw grinned before picking up her prey. She turned and trotted to the Lakeclan camp as the gray Tom followed her to LakeClan camp. Both cats were excited and slightly giddy for what was to come.

The two entered the camp calmly, and their presence was undetected until Maplewood lifted his head from his prey. He smiled at Mistypaw then his eyes grew wide as he noticed Dragonstone.

"Uh.. Mistypaw, whose this?"

"I'm Dragonstone, sir. And, I'm here to pledge my life and loyalty to LakeClan.."

"We'll see," Maplewood replied as he stood and headed toward Shadowstar's den. It was still dawn, and the leader was sleeping in.

While Maplewood was sent for Shadowstar, the kits missed nothing, and took off toward the new Tom. Winterkit was the first to take off, and she politely sat and started the questions.

"Are you a rogue? If so, we'll have to educate you on clan law! First, and the most important, only she cats are allowed to be leaders. That means.. you have no chance. Second, kits are to be treated as utmost equals!" Winterkit proclaimed with a smirk. Finchkit giggled then walked to Dragonstone.

"She just made that up," Finchkit whispered with a grin.

"Na-uh!"

Dragonstone and Mistypaw exchanged glances. Both were about to burst out laughing, until other clan members heard the news.

"He's smells of StormClan. That's not good," Badgerclaw remarked to his daughter Inkjet. She chuckled and turned toward her father.

"Are you kidding me dad? He's adorable," Inkjet replied with a

smirk. She gave Dragonstone a wink, but he was focusing on his eventual conversation with Shadowstar, so did not catch it. Mistypaw did however and ended up glaring at her paws. *She's such a flirt. She doesn't even know him!*

"Attention LakeClan! We have a visitor..."

Dragonstone glanced toward the leader, who bore a warmer expression then he thought she would. She was a long furred Himalayan, but had sharp features.

"Before we begin, do you need anything? A mouse perhaps, or the rabbit.. Sometimes cats have traveled long ways and are famished.."

"No, I'm fine right now. But, thank you," Dragonstone replied honestly. He had never felt such a warm welcome, from everyone. If the situation was vice versa, Thunderstar would never offer would to a stranger, but Shadowstar did.

"It's no problem. Prey is plentiful here, and what we have, we have to share.. You smell like StormClan.. so what is your business here?" Shadowstar asked calmly getting to the point.

"I'm Dragonstone. I was StormClan. A revolt occurred, and I left. I have nowhere to go, and no proof of my loyalty, other then my promise. I'm willing to join and protect LakeClan with my life, if you'll let me," he declared. The clan fell silent except for the quiet rabbling of the kits. Shadowstar studied him for a fewore moments, then shrugged.

"Alright, you're in. I'll have you do apprentice duties until you have proven your skill to me. You'll keep your warrior name however.. And Mistypaw will show you around," she decided with a smile. Shadowstar smiled at everyone else, then nodded to let them know the meeting was over.

"That's it?" Dragonstone said, following Shadowstar to the pile. She nodded and went into deeper explanation.

"As LakeClan's leader, I stick to our values. I believe that if you were a spy, you would be honorable enough to just tell us what

Thunderstar wants of us. But, by your mere appearance, I am sure that you'll be no problem to LakeClan. In fact, you'll make an excellent addition," she added on. He glanced down then back at her.

"Thank you.. again."

"No problem. Eat something though, you're just muscle and bone.."

Dragonstone smiled to himself. I'm LakeClan.. Next, he glanced over the prey pile but noticed the lack of forest prey. The pile was mostly filled with fish, fish and the occasional toad.

"Dragonstone! Hey! You can share the rabbit with me. After all, you carried it half the way!" Mistypaw said happily. She didn't mind helping her new friend accumulate into the clan. And the rabbit was massive.

"Really? Thanks.."

"Totally! You're LakeClan now," she said with a grin. He took a bite of the rabbit and glanced at the sky. *I'm LakeClan now...*

Meanwhile, other cats weren't having such a good day. Gem had just hear word that Vulturestar was planning to supersede her plans.

"You went behind my back! You *lied* to CaveClan.."

"No. RogueClan will be there. I'm a leader and what I say, goes," Vulturestar snapped, glaring across the small cave. Gem scoffed and stalked up toward him.

"In case you didn't figure it out, *dad*, this *my* clan. And in my clan, there is no leader. There is no war. So back off!" She yelled before whipping around and stalking away. To have her father in her presence was worse enough. Now, she had to deal with his inconsiderate demands and orders.

"Don't walk away from me!" He ordered sharply. Gem turned around and was batted across the face by her father. She fell on the ground, and spit blood onto the stone. Nearby watching,

Twistedfoot coiled at their fight. He wanted to help her, but she insisted on doing it on her own.

"You're not my leader! You're not my clan mate! And you are certainly, no father of mine.."

"Shut up, brat. I killed your mother because I thought she killed Skystar. It turns out it was all Voidstar's tricks and Skystar lived after all. Your mother's death was unfortunate, but you barely knew her. Prancing about, acting as if I took away someone you genuinely loved and treasured... *is pathetic*.."

"YOU TOOK HER FROM ME! Years that I could've spent with her, are stolen. I had no mother there for me, because *your wh*..." Gem stopped herself before saying a vulgar term. There was no use in making him angrier. "Skystar, was the only one that mattered, for you! If you weren't a monster like your parents, this would've never happened.. If you didn't stray from your mate, better yet, I wouldn't be here!"

Vulturestar began to avoid her glare, and stare coldly at the cave wall.

"Thunderstar was right, when he said I was a bastard child? Wasn't he?"

"Indeed. You're just like him.."

"No. I'm nothing like any of you," Gem corrected with sass in her tone. Vulturestar chuckled and then, met her gaze with narrowed eyes.

"You were born by a kittypet, so was my father. You were both mistreated for the filth you were, and you've both placed your selfish goals of revenge and inner turmoil over true happiness. You could've had an entire clan at your disposal if you weren't such a brat. The only difference, is that Thunderstar has placed blood before clan, and you clearly can't decipher whose who.."

"I hate you."

"I hate you, too. But I'll make damn sure, that when this is over, you

won't get anything. You'll be exiled to the Twolegplace for insubordinate behavior with the rest of your rogue mutts... then Twistedfoot, will mate with the *only* she cat fit. The loyal, the most beautiful, and the *legitimate Rainpool*.."

"SHUT UP! I HATE YOU!" Gem screamed at the top of her lungs. Tears began streaming down her face. Everything she feared deep down inside, would become true. *How could I be so naive? To have my feelings trapped. There are no happy endings for cats like me...* Gem shot forward with unsheathed claws and dug into her father's pelt, but he tossed her aside with ease. She crashed into a cave wall and grazed her hind leg against a sharp stone.

"Oh! Now you care? I didn't expect the *oh so stubborn* and composed *Gem* to get worked over an *ugly, broken Tom*.."

"Vulturestar!" Twistedfoot called out from outside the cave, near the foot of a tree. "That's enough."

The leader glanced back at his deputy, then to his daughter who was sobbing profusely. He felt a strange gut feeling, but didn't feel any sympathy for her. She's a stupid little girl, who needs to grow up. Before Vulturestar left, he made sure to get the point across to her.

"If you try to stop the attack against StormClan.. I will bring your hide to Thunderstar, as a gift.." Vulture star threatened coldly. She whimpered at the words, and he hastily lashed his tail before leaving.

Gradually, Twistedfoot took his place and slowly limped over to the she cat. Gem laid, in a quiet sob, where her heart only quivered every few seconds as she heaved out a cry.

"Go," Gem whispered, crawling into a ball. She wanted him to go away and live a life he deserved. *Rainpool and him deserve each other.. they'd be happy. Twistedfoot would have nothing with me.. I am nothing.*

"You still don't understand?" Twistedfoot asked, taking his place next to her. She briefly glanced up, but didn't wish to make eye

contact. "I could care less about your kin, or your rank. Your beauty is superior, but I could live without it. Because no matter what they say... There's only one, I could ever love. And she's a gem compared to other stones... I love you," Twistedfoot whispered, with all his heart. He had finally let the turn surface, so now it was Gem's decision.

"That's really sweet and all, but I've got cats to save! I need to speak to Shadow. We need to stop CaveClan from attacking StormClan," Gem said adamantly, brining herself to her paws.

"Are you serious? After all he threatened.."

"My life doesn't matter. I'm fighting for a bigger cause.."

"You're insane!" Twistedfoot stated, in a silent rage. *Once again, she's going to try to kill herself. After everything I just said. Does she not care?*

"Well. You're the one who loves me, so *you're* insane."

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting. This chapter, at 12:00 last night, I wrote the most beautiful quote I have ever written. It is attached as a picture/quote now.

WildUntilTheEnd wrote the Mistypaw and Dragonstone section. Thank you and you did an amazing job.

There's only a few chapters before THE END, so don't miss a word of it.

Chapter 59

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Spiderstar- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Deputy: Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Medicine cats:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:
Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Morningpoppy- a yellow tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. She has flame colored ears and black paws.

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber

eyes.

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Spiderstar

Tinyfear- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes.

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes.

Brinefur- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin.

Queen:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. Kits: Cardinalkit (Tom) and Cloverkit (she cat)

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 4 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 4 moons.

Eaglekit- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Rustkit- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. 3 moons.

Robinkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. 3 moons.
Olivekit- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 3 moons.

Crimsonkit- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. 3 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 4 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 4 moons.

Tawnykit- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. 4 moons.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Kits: Wildkit (Tom), Commitkit (she cat), Aurakit (she cat), and Phantomkit (Tom)

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail.

Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes.

Palesky- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes.

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes.

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes.

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes.

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. Mentor: Spottedpelt

Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes. Mentor: Sparrowfeather

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Kits:
Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. 2 moon.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. 2 moon.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. 2 moon.

StormClan-

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular.

He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat: Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Hunters:
Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes.

Queen of the Clan:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with Emerald green eyes. Expecting Redstar's and Thunderstar's kits.

Queens:
Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Kits: Steelkit (tom), Bluekit (she cat), Snakekit (Tom), and Moonkit (Tom).

Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. Expecting Aspenfur's kits.

Kits:
Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 4 moons.

Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 3 moons.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 3 moons.

Cherrykit- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. 3 moons.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has

light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes.

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful.

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue.

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes.

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Apprentices:
Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Otterpaw- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. Mentor: Rockfall

Lightningpaw- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. Mentor: Maplewood

Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Badgerclaw

Marshpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. Mentor: Moondust

Kits:
Finchkit- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. 4 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 4 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 4 moons.

Dawnkit- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. 5 moons.

Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 5 moons.

RogueClan-

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber

eyes.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a fluffy tail.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Kits: Hailkit (Tom), and Swiftkit (Tom)

Hollowkit- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. 2 moons.

When Vulturestar had left his daughter, he trotted toward the CaveClan camp, north of MountainClan and a few paces to the east. He couldn't help but bring a tensity into the atmosphere. His mannerism set Frostycloud and Shymask into alert.

They were entirely weary of him, since he had attacked CaveClan twice, in the past. Yet, they were aware of his mutiny against StormClan. That itself, was the only reason they allowed him in their camp.

Vulturestar noticed the glares of the CaveClan cats and quickly made his way into a nearby cavern. One inside he glanced around the stone walls in s daze. He panted profusely and shut his eyes tightly. Why did you do that? He asked himself silently. He was more then regretful. He was ashamed.

You're not being a very good father.. A voice menaced in his ear. The cat who had the voice had died moons ago, so it was almost alien to him.

"Get out of my head, Voidstar. We're even. You have paid for your

sins.."

I may have paid, but right now, you're paying the price. It's ironic that you turn out to be a bad father, when yours was such a bad one.. She chuckled, referring to the monster that was Thunderstar. Vulturestar scoffed but a terrible gut feeling filled him, once more. He had done nothing but hurt Gem, and now, he planned to take his anger out on Thunderstar and his clan. *Killing him won't make things right.*

"I know what I have to do," he murmured to himself. Vulturestar sighed then exited the cavern and headed for the exit. Though, he was stopped by an unexpected cat.

"Vulturestar!" A cream furred Tom asked. He had a tanner patches which make him a Tortoiseshell. "Hello, I'm Birchshiver. May I speak with you, privately?" Birchshiver asked. Many of the CaveClan cats were eavesdropping, so it wasn't exactly safe.

"Very well. How about in here?" Vulturestar said walking back into the cavern he was just in. Birchshiver followed and the two toms sat quietly. Everything about Birchshiver was familiar to Vulturestar. His name, his facial structure, and his mannerism.

"I know you don't know me very well, but I was a PureClan cat. One of the last warriors led under Shystar. That's why I'm here in CaveClan. But, they don't know, that I truly came to find my brother and father," Birchshiver explained quietly. Vulturestar nodded with narrowed eyes, trying to understand his relevance.

"My brother, is Sprucestrike," he added on quietly. Vulturestar realized the extent of this and nodded his head. *If Sprucestrike is his brother.. Why is he here?* Vulturestar wondered right before it was answered. "When I was made deputy under Shystar, Sprucestrike wanted it so badly that he tried to kill me. Luckily, I was able to fake my death and run away. When Sprucestrike was exiled, I returned to PureClan, but with new knowledge. Our mother in PureClan, was not our mother. She told me this on her deathbed. Our parents were both from another clan... *SkyClan*."

"And that's why you've come to me.."

"Yes. I was hoping you'd know. There were also two she cats, our sisters... But I never met them.. I don't know if my family is still alive, but I'd appreciate if you could tell me anything.."

Something in Vulturestar snapped. And only a few cats came to mind. Sprucestrike and Birchshiver were around 30 moons. The only Tom, he knew, and old enough to father, wasn't allowed to have kits. *Unless...*

"Horsetail.. Thunderstar knew. He knew all along.." Vulturestar muttered to himself. Then he examined the Tom closer. His tortoiseshell patches made him think of only one cat. *A sister? Dapplestone. How can this be?*

"I have to go. This is so bigger then I thought it was.. It's not about blood or ruling... it's about his past, and about the future.."

"Can I come with you?" Birchshiver asked, realizing Vulturestar had the answers. Vulturestar was hesitate, but knew that he was apart of it as much as anyone.

"Sure. But quickly. They're attacking MountainClan as soon as the moon touches the sky.."

Overhearing the end of their conversation, Shymask was worried for Birchshiver's safety. Her old deputy was close to her heart, and Sprucestrike had already tried to kill him before. *Vulturestar might be working with Sprucestrike.. they could kill him.*. Shymask pondered her decision carefully, until she knew what she had to do. Although she loved her kits, they were old enough to survive without her constant nursing and attention. Their future, and the clan's future was more important. So she followed them.

Meanwhile, after speaking with Shadow, Gem was left without any options. Shadow told her that to regain their father's honor, he would go into battle with him. The fact that he still cared, disgusted Gem, but she wast in the mood to fight with him. She was on one mission alone, to stop the clans from fighting with Thunderstar.

As she headed into the CaveClan camp, she caught a sharp scent of a StormClan patrol, and she instantly dove for the bushes. From

there, she watched Thunderstar, Airflight, and Moonbliss, make their way onto the stone plateau.

"StormClan is here!" Frostycloud called out to the clan. She was the first to meet them their, and her confidence surprised Thunderstar.

"No need to scramble. We're not here to fight.."

"Then why are you here? Perhaps to apologize about Coldstar's death?" Cinderstar challenged as he stalked out of his stone den. The rest of CaveClan were either hunting of addressing the appearance of Thunderstar.

"I admit. It was terribly unfortunate that we had to lose her. But, she charged and I had to defend myself," Thunderstar replied calmly. Cinderstar didn't like the answer, nor the tom, but wasn't going to argue. "But, that's not why I'm here. The other clans are scared and afraid of my influence. No one has posed a greater threat then RogueClan. They have no laws and some of the most dangerous cats you'll find.. Amongst their ranks, is even my own son, Vulturestar."

Frostycloud shifted, knowing that she had just seen the Tom in camp. She didn't believe neither one, but she was searching and willing for solutions.

"Where's Shymask?" Cinderstar whispered quickly to Frostycloud. She shrugged and glanced around. *She was here a few seconds ago...*

"I know that they want war. They want to take on StormClan with your warriors. You've been providing them safety, but what happens if they take StormClan? I'll die, Vulturestar will take back his clan, then what? Do you really expect him to give peace, after all he has done to you?" Thunderstar challenged boldly. Cinderstar was sure that StormClan was the main threat, but now, things were becoming opaque.

"We don't want war either? But if we let you be, you're going to take MountainClan. It won't stop after that," Cinderstar replied with narrowed eyes.

"MountainClan has criminals among them. However, CaveClan is not a threat nor do we want your hunting grounds. StormClan will offer you a deal. You can resume leading your clan, with no CaveClan lives lost. All that is required is that you stay out of StormClan's battles and affairs for good," Thunderstar explained with a calm expression. He hoped Cinderstar was wise, for the young Tom's lives didn't need to be taken. He could be useful, even. "Your decision will be displayed tomorrow, at the battle. And please make the right choice."

After Thunderstar finished, he beckoned his warriors with his tail and they left Cinderstar to decide. The patrol trotted down the plateau and Gem was undetected behind the bush where she was hiding. Next, she spotted Fairshade, coming back to camp with a shrew in his jaws.

"Fairshade! Come here!" She called out from the bush. The cream furred Tom squinted and caught the faint appearance of two green eyes.

"Gem! Are you there?"

"Yes," she replied calmly as she stepped out. Fairshade trotted over and dropped his shrew at his paws.

"How have you been?" He asked immediately, glad to see she was well. He hadn't seen Gem in a few days. He figured that he could be of help to her.

"Not well.. but maybe you can help. I don't want cats losing more lives because of *my* family. Tell Cinderstar not to fight. Tell him RogueClan won't be fighting either," Gem begged with wide eyes. Fairshade wanted to say something but was already so confused.

"Why? If we all fought, we could end the threat.. I don't understand!"

"Please... for me," Gem whispered as she brushed her tail against his paws. He sighed and glanced back toward camp.

"You owe me. You better not be at that battle," Fairshade replied

before picking up the shrew. As he trotted up the plateau, Gem turned around and headed off to tell Llewyn and the others of RogueClan that they were not fighting.

Gem began heading east across the soft forest ground. The potion of forest she was traveling through, had little underbrush, instead tall, thin birch trees. She kept her fast pace until she caught the familiar sent of her fellow rogues.

"Thunderstar visited CaveClan.. trying to make a deal with them," Gem announced as she walks among them. Sleetpool and Maliceflame glanced scarcely at each other, then back to Gem.

"Well.."

"We can't fight. When CaveClan and LakeClan don't fight, it'll be a slaughter. I can't put you guys in that situation. If you want to attempt taking down StormClan down, go ahead. I won't be joining you," Gem declared with little optimism. She had no faith in the clans anymore, and knew StormClan would rip them apart. LightClan couldn't even stop it.

"I'm with you Gem," Llewyn said bluntly. "The clans aren't our problems."

"You're all insane," Sleetpool murmured before stalking over to face Gem. "You're going to let fate decide the battle! For what? What could we lose in battling StormClan? What have we not lost already? I'm disappointed in all of you. Fierceclaw and I are going to help MountainClan fight," Sleetpool declared as her mate, Fierceclaw got their kits. They would have to leave them with Maliceflame and Hollowkit.

"I tried to stand up to him and no one was there for me. I'm staying here with Hollowkit.. The clans can eat the dirt," she shot out with a growl.

"I'm going. I want to shed some of that pretentious blood," Hawk smirked, stepping forward.

"Me too. Battle is all I know," Shadow said stepping toward the cats

who would battle.

"I'm with Gem on this one. Battle isn't the answer," Rainpool said sending a grim glance to her brother, Shadow.

"Lynch and I, will live to fight another day," Lostpath announced before stepping back.

"Gem," Twistedfoot interrupted from the trees. He had just come back and had overheard the conversation. "You don't have to run away.."

"You don't have to follow my father blindly. What good will come from this?"

"The clans will come to MountainClan's aid. They're better than that.."

"*No*, they're not," Gem replied coldly but Twistedfoot was already with the fighting forces. He was done with her. He had to worry about his clanmates. *LightClan will save...* Twistedfoot told himself before he left with the others. The evening sun was beginning to set, and they had to make it to MountainClan be moon high.

While the clans scrambled for time, and strength, StormClan was barely fretting. In fact, Thunderstar and Dapplestone lay together, on the jags rock in which he had killed Voidstar. She flicked him with her tail flirtatiously, but he was stuck in thought.

"First patrol should meet the forces.. in our part of the forest. That way, the practice in enduring thorns will pay off. The second patrols journey is obvious.. But who shall we put on each patrol?" Thunderstar asked curiously. He valued Dapplestone's opinion, and was always testing her naturally. He was her mentor.

"It doesn't matter whose on the first patrol. It matters whose on the second patrol, remember?" Dapplestone said with a smirk. He nodded and she jumped down from the rock to illustrate the plan.

"We need killers on the second patrol. MountainClan won't risk the lives of the young cats, so they'll place them back at camp. Horsetail.. will be at camp, waiting for *you*.."

"But as we planned, it is you, who needs to kill him. Everything hinges on Horsetail's death. That is how we destroy their link to LightClan. The link will next go with Jaybird, being the second oldest medicine cat to Horsetail. And we will have the only connection to LightClan, and I will gain utmost clarity of mind from that medicine cat's death.."

"Why don't you kill him then, love? I know you have to be there for Spiderstar, but I'm sure we can take him prisoner and-,"

"No! No, that won't be necessary. You need to do it. You must be as feared as I am," Thunderstar lied, glancing away. She didn't know about the promise he made long ago, nor the identity of her parents.

"Thunderstar, we need to talk about the second patrol to Mountainclan," Dapplestone said brightly, turning on all her charm. The Queen waved her tail and put on a sickly sweet grin.

Since Vulturestar's betrayal, Dapplestone had been finding a lot of things to complain about, wether it was Rosejay's attitude or Sleetpool's disloyalty, nothing would please her. Thunderstar had more often than not elected to stay out of it. They had a battle to prepare for, and everything had to be meticulously thought out.

"What is it, love?" Thunderstar said absentmindedly, as he watched Sprucestrike lecturing the warriors afar.

Dapplestone pouted for a second, not liking the lack of attention, but quickly said, "I want to lead in the second patrol to Mountainclan."

Thunderstar froze, and turned to Dapplestone, annoyed. "Why would you want to go? You're due to kit any day now! It is a foolish decision, I won't allow it."

"I'm not due so terribly soon, and our children, our heirs, are in Mountainclan.." Thunderstar scowled. He knew Redstar's children were there too, and Dapplestone could be bias. As for their second litter, he had not met them nor knew if they were truly his heirs.

"That's an even better reason for you NOT to go to Mountainclan. You'll only get in our way." At Dapplestone's hurt expression he faltered. "I don't want you nor these kits to get hurt. Please *try* to understand."

Dapplestone scoffed. "I'm a warrior, not just your silly queen! I'm the best swimmer as well! Who else would do better in leading the second patrol!"

"Sprucestrike has volunteered. I think he will be more than capable," Thunderstar said confidently. He wasn't as good of a swimmer as Dapplestone, it was true, but both toms were tired of Dapplestone's nonsense. Yet Dapplestone wasn't budging. The she cat could be very persuasive with Thunderstar. It made her dangerous.

"No offense to Sprucestrike, but last time I checked, he was deputy," Dapplestone snorted offensively. "I won't get into the thick of the fight, my love, I promise you! I'll take care of business and get out of there. I only want to help our clan!"

"What do you plan on doing, then? Extermination is the goal and I don't see you being the best for the job. How would you help?"

Dapplestone smiled again, but it didn't reach her cold, emerald eyes. "There are kits in Mountainclan, love. Kin of their warriors, descendants of powerful cats. If I were to kill them, they would never challenge out heirs, not carry on the traditions of MountainClan. MountainClan would be forgotten."

This brought a fierce light to Thunderstar's eye, and he smirked. "What kits do you have in mind, exactly?"

"All of them," Dapplestone said, a bit giddy. "There will be nothing left when I am through with their pathetic offspring."

"And what about Redstar's litter?" Thunderstar asked, fully absorbed now.
Dapplestone betrayed no emotion, no love for her kits would show on her face.

"I will kill them first. No blood but SkyClan shall survive."

Thunderstar laughed, and nodded. "Very well, you may lead the Lake patrol. But be careful, you're not popular with MountainClan. Your death..." Thunderstar shivered inwardly. "It would not be acceptable."

Dapplestone nodded, and sauntered away, grimacing when one of her kits kicked absently. They were almost due, probably I'm a day or two, contrary to what she had told Thunderstar. But she was determined to go to Mountainclan. There were not only kits to kill, but she wanted to get rid of an collateral damage.

Thunderstar was not always wise when placing the difference between threats and intriguing cats. Vulturestar's children, would need to be dispelled. For his mutiny, the only thing his mother had for him, was disappointment. She planned on brining him the pain that he deserved. *He had a litter with Softstep.. Was it Bushpaw and Gempaw? Yes. Then Skystar's kits, were Shadow, Rainpool and Bubblefur. They'll all have to go, but we'll keep Bubblefur for now. That will destroy Vulturestar...*

Dapplestone stepped into the nursery, giving Rosejay a nod. The ginger she cat gave her a stiff half-smile, which looked more like a grimace, and hugged her kits close. Dapplestone rolled her eyes, and her thoughts went back to her duty.

Too long had Thunderstar and Vulturestar allowed inadequate kits to grow and take power from them. *Some are impure, and some are too dangerous*. Depending on who made it to the battle, she would waste no time on ridding the brats. *Bushpaw will have to go. Their medicine cats must be exterminated. And if Gem's there, oh! I'll happily rip her limb from limb.* She viewed Gem as the biggest brat of all. And they were far too similar.

"What'cha doin'?" A she kit squealed. Dapplestone looked down. Bluekit, one of Rosejay's kits, looked up at her with big eyes.

Rosejay had on a cool façade, but was poised to spring at any moment should the other queen attack her kit like she had so brutally killed Maliceflame's. Though, he was convinced that

Thunderstar needed her kits. After all, it would be unwise to kill the future breeding pool. Dapplestone smiled, and Bluekit giggled and took a step back.

"I'm thinking about my kits.. and you! Look how big you've gotten.. You're so grown up now. You know, Cherrykit really appreciates your friendship.."

Bluekit, a bit flustered, smiled. "Really?"

"Really. You're going to be a great Warrior and Queen someday," Dapplestone added on with a smile. Rosejay made a crinkled face as the queen said the sanguine words. *She's so fake and disgusting...* Rosejay thought to herself.

"Dapplestone, do you think we can play with your kits, once they're old enough?" Bluekit asked with hopeful.

"Oh yes, but you'll have to catch up with them.."

"Come on Bluekit. Go play with the others," Rosejay said in a pleading tone.

Bluekit turned to look at her mother, wondering what was wrong. "I gotta go.. When I grow up, I wanna be just like you!" Bluekit whispered before running off to meet the other kits. Dapplestone's heart melted a bit and she titled her head. *How precious! She is definitely a keeper...*

"She's beautiful," Dapplestone said, "Does Foxheart visit them often?"

"Yes," Rosejay nodded with a moderate expression. "Very often, when he's not hunting, of course."

"That's good," Dapplestone thought aloud. "I hope you like it here, for their sake."

"Of course, Dapplestone. Why wouldn't we?" Rosejay said, nodding numbly. Dapplestone soon laid down for a nap and Rosejay peered out at the kits. *The sooner she drowns in the Lake the better*.

Thank you for reading, voting and commenting, as always.

CeRosette wrote the Thunderstar and Dapplestone part. Bravo.

1 more chapter...

Chapter 60

Allegiances

MountainClan-

Leader: Spiderstar- jet black furred tom with Crimson yellow eyes.

Deputy: Jaggedclaw- tan furred tom with jagged stripes down his pelt and green eyes.

Medicine cats:
Horsetail- an older brown furred medicine cat with yellow eyes.

Bushwind- large gray tabby Tom with dark green eyes.

Warriors:
Raspyhowl- a lean red tom with amber eyes.

Swiftfawn- a caramel brown she cat with a few lighter spots around her tail.

Feathershade- black furred she cat with brown/amber eyes.

Flamespirit- red and golden furred she cat with golden flecks, brown eyes and a nicked ear.

Wolfheart- a gray tabby tom with short fur. He has Amber eyes and long, pointy ears.

Stormchaser- short haired dark silver Tom with white blotches. He has one black paw and piercing blue eyes.

Beestorm- a black and white furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Morningpoppy- a yellow tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes. She has flame colored ears and black paws.

Blitzfire- a cream and golden Bengal furred she cat with Amber

eyes.

Thornfrost- a gray tabby she cat with electric blue eyes.

Tallcloud- a white Tom with black patched fur and brown eyes. He is very tall and lean. Mentor: Spiderstar

Tinyfear- a tiny black furred she cat with emerald green eyes.

Rivertail- gray-blue furred she cat with white tipped paws and tail. She has green eyes.

Suntail- small yellow long furred tom with bright amber eyes.

Brinefur- grey furred she cat with white patches on her chest, muzzle, paws and tail. She has light teal eyes and is very thin.

Queen:
Cloudfire- a silver she cat with white marking and reddish-orange eyes. Kits: Cardinalkit (Tom) and Cloverkit (she cat)

Kits:
Ashkit- gray furred Tom with Amber eyes and short fur. 4 moons.

Bonekit- white furred Tom with a black nose, ears and dark eyes. 4 moons.

Eaglekit- a tortoiseshell Tom with Amber eyes. 3 moons.

Rustkit- a ginger furred Tom with green eyes. 3 moons.

Robinkit- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws and blue eyes. 3 moons.
Olivekit- a darker tortoiseshell she cat with green eyes. 3 moons.

Crimsonkit- a pure white she cat with one red paw. She has a long jagged scar across her former eye which is swollen shut. 3 moons.

Echokit- white furred she cat with grey ears and tail. 4 moons.

Tearkit- a pure white furred she cat with turquoise colored eyes. 4 moons.

Tawnykit- a light brown and cream Tom with green eyes and a yellow tail. 4 moons.

Elder:
Willowbreeze- a blue-gray Himalayan she cat.

CaveClan-

Leader: Cinderstar- a grey, long furred tom with blue eyes.

Deputy: Shymask- pumpkin peach furred she cat with a few pastel patches and a ring around one paw. She has amber eyes. Kits: Wildkit (Tom), Commitkit (she cat), Aurakit (she cat), and Phantomkit (Tom)

Medicine cat:
Sparrowfeather- cream she cat with brown and red flecks. She has brown eyes but her left eye is blind.

Warriors:
Frostycloud- pure white she cat with bright blue eyes.

Spottedpelt- gray savannah tom with darker stripes and silver eyes.

Shiftclaw- a thick furred wild cat Tom. He has Amber eyes and is very large.

Darkomen- a grey Tom with darker grey patches on his muzzle, forepaws, and tail tip. His eyes are emerald green.

Sootfall- a fuzzy black Tom with grey spots and blue eyes.

Birchshiver- a cream Tom with tanner patches that cover his left eye, tail and legs. He has green-blue eyes.

Blackfire- a dark grey she cat with icy blue eyes. She has longer fur and a fluffy tail.

Fairshade- a cream Tom with brown legs that very in shade. He has Amber eyes.

Silvershell- a sliver furred she cat with white patches and blue eyes.

Palesky- a cream furred she cat with brown tipped ears and tail. She has blue eyes.

Earthstripe- a brown she cat with varied brown stripes that make her pelt blend with the earth. She has green eyes.

Timberfall- a tall brown tabby Tom with green eyes.

Oceanheart- a black angora Tom cat with four white paws and icy blue eyes.

Lillyleap- a dark gray tabby she cat with a white belly and paws. She has green eyes.

Apprentices:
Nightpaw- a gray, long furred she cat with blue eyes. Mentor: Spottedpelt

Blazepaw- a golden tabby furred she cat with black tipped ears, tail, and toes. She has Amber eyes. Mentor: Sparrowfeather

Flarepaw- a ginger tabby Tom with blue eyes. Mentor: Darkomen

Kits:
Tidekit- a brown and grey Bengal Tom with blue eyes. 2 moon.

Silentkit- a black she cat with grey muzzle and yellow eyes. 2 moon.

Duskkit- a Bombay she cat with short black fur and blue eyes. 2 moon.

StormClan-

Leader: Thunderstar- a huge, muscular gray tabby Tom. His fur is spiky, yet kept. He has a huge gouge where his right eye used to be. The other eye is piercing yellow.

Deputy: Sprucestrike- ragged brown Tom, slim, yet he is muscular.

He has dark green eyes.

Medicine cat: Jaybird- a silver-blue she cat with darker tiger-like stripes that run along her back and leopard-like speckles around her paws tail and neck. She has blue eyes that are clouded a bit do to her blindness.

Warriors:
Earthfoot- tortoiseshell furred tom with a short tail.

Poisonberry- a dark, dark grey she cat with darker spots that run along her back. She had a reddish-pinkish nose and large pterodactyl paws.

Tigerstorm- a russet furred she cat with black stripes along her back.

Moonbliss- long haired silver she cat with a black tipped tail and neon green eyes.

Dustystripe- golden tabby furred town with brown eyes.

Bubblefur- silver-blue she cat with faint white speckles and blue eyes.

Hunters:
Nightjet- a jet black furred Tom with white socks and a scar across his eye.

Foxheart- a russet furred Tom with a white underbelly and icy blue eyes. He has sharp and slim features.

Ivysong- a Siamese she cat with green eyes.

Aspenfur- a grey furred Tom with black spots that run along his legs. He has deep blue eyes.

Brightfire- golden tabby furred she cat with Amber eyes.

Cedarlily- a golden tabby furred she cat with a black ringed tail, white patches chest and blue eyes.

Messenger:
Airflight- a yellow tabby furred Tom with with black tipped ears, tail, an legs. He's tall and has light blue eyes.

Queen of the Clan:
Dapplestone- a tortoiseshell she cat with Emerald green eyes. Expecting Redstar's and Thunderstar's kits.

Queens:
Rosejay- a ginger tortoiseshell she cat with bright blue eyes. Kits: Steelkit (tom), Bluekit (she cat), Snakekit (Tom), and Moonkit (Tom).

Bluewisp- a silver-blue furred she cat with blue eyes. Expecting Aspenfur's kits.

Kits:
Vicekit- black furred Tom with violet eyes. 4 moons.

Tangledkit- a dark furred Bengal Tom with yellow eyes. 3 moons.

Sharpkit- a black furred Tom with faint sharp stripes. His eyes are grey. 3 moons.

Deathkit- a black furred Tom with a white eyes and paws. 3 moons.

Cherrykit- a ginger furred she cat with a fluffy tail an green eyes. 3 moons.

Elder:
Burrclaw- a pale brown ragged furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

LakeClan-

Leader: Shadowstar- a Himalayan she cat with a black furred face and snow white pelt.

Deputy: Rockfall- a wildcat Tom with pale grey eyes.

Medicine cat: Sweetbreeze- a small, light calico she cat. She has

light blue eyes that sparkle.

Warriors:
Silverfeather- a silver short haired tabby with pale green eyes.

Dovepool- a white furred she cat with pale grey eyes.

Maplewood- a tuxedo'd Tom with grey eyes.

Hiddencreek- a black and gray slick furred Tom, with white speckles that run along his coat. He has pale green eyes with blue flecks. And his tail has longer fur and is quite powerful.

Moondust- a gray tortoiseshell with white and gray patches. Half of her face is white and other half is tan and she has a black nose. One eye is green the other eye is pale blue.

Badgerclaw- a black furred Tom with a white stripe that stretches down his neck, legs, and back that makes him resemble a badger. He has brown eyes.

Inkjet- a black furred she cat with white speckles along her black. She has a long Mohawk like fur that goes from her head to tail. She has pale grey eyes and is short.

Dragonstone- a silver furred Tom with black stripes and pale green eyes with yellow flecks.

Apprentices:
Lightpaw- a pale grey furred she cat with white splashes. She has yellow eyes. Mentor: Dovepool

Mistypaw- a silver-blue Bengal furred she cat with light golden eyes. Mentor: Silverfeather

Otterpaw- a brown Tom with darker black stripes that run along his back and to his shoulders. He has blue eyes and a thick, fluffy powerful tail. Mentor: Rockfall

Lightningpaw- a black furred Tom with one yellow and blue eye. Mentor: Maplewood

Zodiacpaw- jet-black furred she cat. She has such dark fur it cannot be seen when dark. She has crimson eyes and a scar near one. Mentor: Shadowstar

Leopardpaw- a beige she cat with distinct black markings that run along her fur. She has subtle green eyes. Mentor: Hiddencreek

Cougarpaw- a dusty-ginger furred Tom with a big stature and a pink nose. He has Amber eyes. Mentor: Badgerclaw

Marshpaw- a ginger tabby Tom with white paws. He has green eyes. Mentor: Moondust

Kits:
Finchkit- a dusty colored she cat with darker stripes and a white underbelly. She also has grey eyes. 4 moons.

Toadkit- a gray furred Tom with yellow eyes and a wart on his nose. 4 moons.

Blackkit- a black furred she cat with blue eyes. 4 moons.

Dawnkit- a golden long furred she cat with white patches and green eyes. 5 moons.

Winterkit- a pure white silky she cat with one green-yellow eyes and one blue eye. 5 moons.

RogueClan-

Shadow- black furred Tom with blue eyes and dark faint stripes.

Gem- a gray Bengal she cat with Emerald green eyes.

Hawk- a gray thin furred Tom with icy blue eyes.

Lynch- light brown skinny Tom with green eyes. Bones are always visible.

Llewyn- a thin, lean, Egyptian black furred Tom with yellow eyes.

Maliceflame- white, long, ragged furred she cat with bright Amber

eyes.

Lostpath- a gray/brown tom with black tipped ears, tail, paws. His left eye is blue but he right eye is red.

Vulturestar- a gray tom with black stripes and yellow eyes.

Twistedfoot- a black Tom with gray eyes and a twisted paw.

Fierceclaw- mangy black and brown furred Tom. He has grey eyes.

Rainpool- a silver-blue she cat with blue eyes. She has short fur but a long fluffy tail.

Sleetpool- gray and white furred she cat with gray eyes and a short tail. Kits: Hailkit (Tom), and Swiftkit (Tom)

Hollowkit- a dark brown tabby she cat with amber eyes. 2 moons.

The moon had almost touched the top of the night sky, and MountainClan were becoming rushed. They had little time, and the intensity frightened everyone.

"The cats meeting StormClan in battle will be Jaggedclaw, Raspyhowl, Feathershade, Swiftfawn, Beestorm, Thornfrost, Tallcloud, Rivertail, Suntail, Brinefur, Flamespirit, Wolfheart, and I will be on the attacking patrol. The rest of you, need to stay here for the kits and to protect the camp. We will also have CaveClan and LakeClan forces, once they arrive, so I have full confidence in the battle tonight," Spiderstar announced before he leaped down from the leader's oak. Bushwind was a bit surprised that neither medicine cat was coming along, but he knew Spiderstar would make wise decisions.

"Feathershade!" Spiderstar called out as he trotted over to his sister. She turned from her discussion with Wolfheart and Flamespirit and faced her better. "I want you to be safe, alright? The only reason I put you on this patrol is because you'd sneak on anyway."

"I'm sure I can handle them. But you be safe too. You're the only cat

whose expected to go up against Thunderstar. I hope your ready," she said with a concerned expression.

"I've always been ready. This is my destiny. I've had to suffer more then the cats that have gone up against him. I won't lose.."

"Be safe alright," Wolfheart whispered, as Flamespirit and him exchanged the sharing of tongues, a typical gesture of mates. She nodded, surprisingly silent, before they set off for the battle.

"Hey, Blitzfire!" Bushwind called out as he put on his "stud" walk. It ended up very awkward and Blitzfire laughed loudly.

"What is it, *handsome*?"

"Before you go into this life threatening battle. I just wanted to let you know, that I luv you! And that, we should totally become mates and have adorable kits together!" Bushwind declared boldly. Blitzfire pounced onto him, and he flailed onto the ground. She looked him in the eyes, and the world slowed for him.

"Nothing.. would make me happier," she replied full heartily and licked him between his ears. He then jumped up, and became a bit flustered.

"I have no idea what we do now.."

"It'll have to wait."

The battle patrol finally set off, leaving the few who would be holding down the camp. Just as this happened, two cats burst threw the trees unexpectedly.

"Vulturestar! They're attacking now!" Tinyfear exclaimed racing forward. *I won't let him hurt my clan!* Birchshiver leaped in front of her.

"He's not! We're not.."

"Vulturestar," Horsetail addressed boldly. He was surprised to see the growth of the Tom. He hadn't seen him since the great battle. "What is your business here?"

"We need to speak with you. Now," Vulturestar requested with urgency in his voice.

"Alright. Bushwind, come along," Horsetail said, leading them into the medicine cat den. The two warriors made scrunched faces at the potent smells of the herb stores. But no time was to be wasted.

"Horsetail... I'd like you to meet someone. Your son, Birchshiver," Vulturestar introduced the tom, who was silent meeting his father. Horsetail's eyes widened and he glanced back and forth.

"Um... Vulturestar, I'm your son," Bushwind murmured in the heat of the moment. He was face to face with his father who he had never met before.

"How? What.."

"Horsetail, we don't have much time to waste. I've been with CaveClan the last few moons, since I know Shystar. As we were leaving, we saw Thunderstar head into CaveClan. We think he's persuaded them to not fight. And, RogueClan, did not inform LakeClan of anything. MountainClan is alone," Birchshiver revealed with a somber expression. *These seem like good cats. They don't deserve to die...*

"No... no... They promised! Cinderstar made a vow!"

"I'll warn Spiderstar. I'll have to meet them there anyway," Vulturestar decided, taking off for the battle. The others exited in realization of the danger they were in.

"Wait! Vulturestar," Horsetail called out, as he tried to catch up with him. Vulturestar stopped at the exit, and Horsetail met him there and said his words in a hurry. "I'm sorry, about everything. But I'm thankful, for what you're doing. Despite how I've treated you. I should've respected you and DarkClan and not prejudged you for your similarity to your father. I'm afraid your father and I had a mishap back then.. that well, ruined our friendship. If you meet him in battle, *please*, tell him I'm sorry. Now go!"

Vulturestar, calmed yet intrigued, set off toward the battle. He

wanted to know more. He wanted to ask Horsetail what had happened and he wanted to know what that Bush cat was talking about. *What set this horrible series of events into course?* But he knew, he had to do what was necessary. He had to get to Spiderstar.

As Vulturestar set off for the battle, Shymask arrived in MountainClan. Stormchaser, her mate, was the first to notice her and rushed to her side.

"Is everything alright? What're you doing here?" He asked with a surprised smile. Stormchaser loved seeing her, and wanted to discuss their kits, but it wasn't exactly the perfect night.

"It's Vulturestar," she panted. "I chased them here. Where's Birchshiver?"

"I'm here Shymask. It's not a problem. Vulturestar helped us," Birchshiver added on out of the blue. She tilted her head in confusion and Birchshiver explained the terrible news.

"CaveClan isn't coming. While we were gone, Thunderstar made a deal with them. And RogueClan, never told LakeClan of the battle. No one is coming except Vulturestar and a few of his warriors.

"What! No, no, no," Shymask murmured in fear. MountainClan will fall, CaveClan will next, Sprucestrike will kill my kits. He'll kill Stormchaser.

"It's alright, Shymask. I won't let them hurt our family," Stormchaser promised with a smile. He gazed into her Amber eyes which began shedding tears. He looked back into them with his deep blue eyes and tried to calm her.

"Don't you see! He'll come back... He hates me. He always has... He won't stop," Shymask cried, letting go another sob. Birchshiver listened and shook his head.

"I'll make sure you make it out of this. Let's prepare this clan if StormClan's forces make it this far. Okay?" Birchshiver purposed. The warriors nodded and stood beginning the preparations.

"Morningpoppy! Move all the kits to the leader's den. No one will be

looking there," Shymask began. The beautiful she cat nodded and beckoned her kits.

"Cloudfire and Morningpoppy, you'll need to hide at the base of the leader's oak. We can't have you all in the den..."

"We're on it, Shymask!"

"Willowbreeze, can we help you get anywhere?" Stormchaser offered to the elder she cat. She grumbled and stood shakily.

"I am an able warrior! I can fight off the evil forces with teeth and claw! Just tell me where they are... cause my sight isn't with me today," Willowbreeze said gazing around. Stormchaser smiled and directed her to the Leader's den, to entertain the kits during the battle.

"And who are the warriors left?" Birchshiver asked glancing around. Horsetail had trotted back, Bushwind, Blitzfire and Tinyfear all trotted forward.

"Until the enemy gets here, stay in the nursery, alright? Shymask, Stormchaser and I will guard the camp from the center. We'll try to deceive them with numbers. It may not matter but hey, it's all we got," Birchshiver explained and instructed the four. Try all nodded and got into place, and the camp fell into silence.

Shymask glanced up to the sky, to see the murky clouds crawling across the sky. The stars twinkled, but the most noticeable thing was the large cream moon. *Let the battle begin...*

And indeed it would. Spiderstar had hoped CaveClan would follow their scents to the border, but there was no sight of them.

"We have to hurry. The open ground is better then the forest," Jaggedclaw reminded him, but Spiderstar shook his head.

"No. We have to wait for Cinderstar. He'll be here," Spiderstar said. His confidence in his friend had not wavered.

"Spiderstar, we have to hurry. The farther out we meet them, the less chance of them making it back to camp."

"A few more minutes," Spiderstar whispered, paying attention to the scents and the sounds. Jaggedclaw shook his head but wasn't in the mood. After more minutes had passed, Raspyhowl had had enough. His family was back at camp, and he wouldn't risk them.

"We need to go! They're not coming," Raspyhowl croaked impatiently. Spiderstar was about to argue when Vulturestar and loyal DarkClan members crawled through the trees.

"They're not coming. It's confirmed. Neither is LakeClan," Vulturestar announced. A deadly silence fell and the warriors chilled, inside. Their hopes, their courage, and everything was taken from them in a few words.

"STOP! We can do this. We are MountainClan. We have more heart and passion than any cat on that side. It's time to show them, what clans led by LightClan do.." The cats nodded, but didn't dare to cheer and risk alarming the enemy.

Led by Spiderstar, the patrol inched forward into the lost forest. If a cat couldn't scent, they would never find their way out of the thick tendrils, thickets and thorns.

Vulturestar crouched low with his son Shadow, as they were the last to enter the lost forest. They both exchanged glances of uncertainty. They knew that they were stepping right in Thunderstar's claws. And it didn't take long for him to make it know.

"Welcome, MountainClan! I was beginning to think you wouldn't show," Thunderstar's voice echoes from above. The warriors spun their heads around but no one could catch a glimpse of Thunderstar or his troops.

"Thunderstar, this isn't a game," Spiderstar hissed glancing around. Perhaps it was fear he was feeling, but who wouldn't feel it?

"Yes it is Spiderstar. Vulturestar knows that, don't you son? I'm really intrigued on how you turned him.."

"I turned myself, father. If it's Horsetail or me you want, fine, we'll

sit down and have a talk. But killing innocent warriors is pathetic and meaningless," Vulturestar retorted with narrowed eyes. He was fed up with his father's games and wanted this to stop.

"Oh... does no one understand? I'm the bad guy... I'm supposed to reek havoc," he said sarcastically with a chuckle. It was follow by the other chuckles of his warriors lying in wait. This continued until Thunderstar stepped out of the shadows and in front of Spiderstar. Everyone stiffened, but Thunderstar was relaxed as could be. "It's unfortunate that it has to be this way for you. Really. And don't take this th wrong way, I have nothing personal against you Spiderstar. In fact, you're a great warrior and leader. And that's why, you need to go. StormClan attack!"

"MountainClan attack!" Spiderstar shouted charging forward. Thunderstar jumped up, and was once again hidden among the branches.

Meanwhile Feathershade entangled claws with Dustystripe. The warrior was viscous and taught well. He knew her attacks before she made them, and he easily pinned her against a large root. She kicked back and scratched his leg, which splat blood into her pelt, but it didn't stop him. He bit down on her neck and she screamed in pain.

Raspyhowl noticed her struggle and surged toward the tom, but he was too fast. He spun around in anticipation and slashed him straight across the throat.

"NO!" Feathershade screamed from her injuries position, but it didn't make a difference. Dustystripe had moved on, so she was now left with Raspyhowl bleeding out on the forest floor. Her best friend, was gone that quickly. Her whimpers attracted Foxheart, who was a natural Hunter but fought as a warrior for the battle. He saw the deadly bite she had already received, and figured he could end it all sooner. Foxheart pinned then hit deep into her throat, piercing her jugular, and ending her life quicker than it would have wen.

"I'm sorry. But I'm not a warrior. I'm a coward. A coward who has a family," he whispered to Feathershade before taking off somewhere

else. Swiftfawn fought successfully against Poisonberry. Although Swiftfawn's specialty was hunting, her speed came into use and each time Poisonberry attacked with sheer force, she evaded it. She also had the help of her apprentice, Rivertail, and they tagged team the she cat together.

Spiderstar managed to climb onto the trees, where Thunderstar lie in wait.

"You know how I get my followers?" Thunderstar tested him with a smirk. Spiderstar stayed in his pale but narrowed his eyes.

"Being an oppressor?"

"No. I'm invincible and powerful. I can dispel any threat.."

"Except twolegs.. I've heard the stories Thunderstar! Of how the oh-so-great Thunderstar died that day. By a twoleg?" Spiderstar mocked. Thunderstar chuckled before it fell into a condescending smirk.

"Spiderstar, are you really falling to mockery. I thought you were the hero..."

"Shut up," Spiderstar hissed before shooting forward. Thunderstar was ready and slashed forward, threatening Spiderstar's balance. He gripped onto it though and it shook at the commotion. Thunderstar didn't stop through and began to jump on the branch.

"I just *love*, how battle is influenced by so many things. I plan to weaken you with this fall, then strip your lives from you by my claws.."

Spiderstar rolled his eyes and slashed forward this time. He caught the edge of Thunderstar's leg and they both fell to the left. Caught in his words, Thunderstar had no chance to grapple onto the branch and he fell to the forest floor. Spiderstar however, caught on with a single paw and pried himself back onto the branch.

"Is he dead?" Brinefur asked, being the nearest by. She had just witness the StormClan leader fall from great heights, and his body was having a tremor. Spiderstar made it down and stepped back

from the body wearily.

"He can't be dead," Vulturestar muttered to himself. Spiderstar was about to further investigate, when Vulturestar saw the tremors stop, and his tail quivered.

"SPIDERSTAR WATCH OUT!" He screamed as his father surged toward Spiderstar, claws flared and his single eye, a fiery yellow. Thunderstar pinned the Tom and smirked.

"Congratulations, Spiderstar. You're the first cat to ever take a life from me... And you'll be the last," Thunderstar declared and his brought down his claws across Spiderstar's belly. The black furred Tom winced, but wasn't about to let his injury take over him. He slashed again, and his claws raked across his muzzle. Thunderstar hissed and stepped back. Spiderstar, although his wound was spilling blood profusely, still advanced toward Thunderstar.

"You won't... win," Spiderstar said feebly as his body began to deteriorate. "Maybe tonight... I may die. But my clan, will live on..."

"I'm afraid not," Thunderstar replied with a low chuckle. "You see, my mate and deputy have already crossed the lake, and shall be storming the camp as we speak. Your clan, will fall..."

Spiderstar was crawling now, but he slowed and his eyes began to drift. He tried to fight the tremors, but it was useless. 9 of his vital organs had been ripped apart, in one slice. He would die. *I'm coming Icywind... I'm coming.*

"MountainClan.. retreat," Jaggedclaw panted with a somber tone. He never wanted it to come to this. Thornfrost, however, wouldn't dare to retreat. She had to keep the enemy from advancing, whether it meant her life or not.

Tallcloud, Suntail, and Brinefur wasted no time and quickly sprinted back to camp. Swiftfawn and Rivertail were now battling Nightjet, a StormClan Hunter.

And it was almost too easy. Rivertail distracted the Tom and Swiftfawn pounced onto his back and bit into his neck savagely.

Nightjet squirmed and raced away, and the she cats moved on to the next target.

Jaggedclaw was stuck under the claws of Tigerstorm, a skilled she cat warrior. Rivertail pounced forward and will her entire body force, managed to toss Tigerstorm off. However the she cat was now caught in her claw, and it was quickly becoming deadly.

"Rivertail get out of there!" Swiftfawn pleaded before she was attacked by Dustystripe. Rivertail tried to defend herself against the warrior but it became too much. As Tigerstorm made her final move, Jaggedclaw burst in front of her claw and took the blow. To his surprise, he only took the deep wound easily that could've killed his sister.

When Rivertail and Jaggedclaw rose, Tigerstorm bowed her head and winked. "I'm not a killer... You better hurry though."

The two quickly took off with the rest of the surviving MountainClan forces. As they moved out, the StormClan cats headed back to camp to be treated by Jaybird. The former DarkClan forces were confused on where they would go. They didn't want to go back to StormClan nor RogueClan. They wanted their clan back.

"Shadow," Brinefur called out as she watched the Tom finish battling with Moonbliss. He sent the she cat running.

"Brinepaw! Is that you?" Shadow asked glancing around for the she cat. The sliver she cat stepped closer but was frantic of StormClan warriors still luring in the shadows.

"Yes, it's *Brinefur*. Shadow, come back to MountainClan... *please*."

"There is no MountainClan, anymore. No more to go.. But we could run away together. We could start a new life.. a new clan," Shadow offered as he brushed his muzzle against hers. She smiled and met him with her eyes, until a face of horror struck her face.

"WATCH OUT!" Brinefur shouted as a she cat dropped from the trees. Shadow whipped around to see his white speckled sister, and her gleaming eyes.

"I'm afraid neither of you will leave tonight," she hissed with a thirsty gleam. Shadow stood protectively in front of Brinefur, and his sister laughed menacingly. *What did they do to her?*

"You will both pay the price for not siding with StormClan..."

Bubblefur pounced and Shadow met her there. The two siblings nipped at each other's ears, legs and necks but they always evaded the fang. This series of equal strengths continued until another cat came into play.

Airflight darted toward Brinefur and the she cat hissed and lashed her tail. Shadow lost his focus at this, and Bubblefur gleamed with a new purpose.

"Oh, *brother,"* she whispered with a huge grin. Then she surged forward, running towards Airflight who had pinned her to the ground. For Shadow, the moment was the most painful thing he had ever felt, as Brinefur's throat was sliced open by Bubblefur. Shadow screamed and he couldn't stop the tears from forming.

"I'll see you and RogueClan again, *big brother*.."

This is all my fault. Shadow's thought repeated in his mind as he lay over his friend's dead body.

"Run faster!" Flamespirit encouraged Wolfheart, who had sustained a bite to the leg. They were some of the first to leave but they were being chased by Poisonberry. Wolfheart knew that he couldn't avoid the battle forever, so he spun around. As he did, Poisonberry latched onto his neck, and tore her back claws down his belly. This was a surprise to him, and a lethal move. Before Flamespirit could retaliate, Poisonberry fled.

"No..." She weeped and whimpered quietly.

While the battle of the lost forest continued, StormClan's second patrol was led by Dapplestone. Wasting no time, they set off across the lake steadily. The patrol was composed of Dapplestone, Sprucestrike, Earthfoot, Brightfire and Ivysong.

All were great swimmers after a moon of training, and all made it

across the lake in good time. Once they did touch the store, they licked off the excess water from their pelts and hoped it would dry on the way up.

"How are you, Dapplestone?" Brightfire asked, knowing the she cat was days away from delivering. The swim itself took the most toll on her because of the extra weight.

"I'm fine," Dapplestone lied between her breaths. During the day, she felt her belly twist and any moment the contractions could start. "Just be ready."

Once their pelts were not weighting them down, they took off up the Mountain side. Dapplestone trotted slowly behind and allowed the others to take the first action. If Dapplestone got entangled in a battle with anyone else, she could lose her chance to get Horsetail and possibly her unborn kits.

"We're almost there," Dapplesrome warned them. "I'll do what I have to do. You four do the same. Eliminate the excess or at least give them a lethal wound. Now go.."

Sprucestrike was the first to break through the camp and saw his three favorite targets in the forest. Shymask saw him first, then Birchshiver.

"They're here!" Shymask called out in alarm as she leaped down from the Boulder. The other two followed but Sprucestrike wanted to get this over with.

"Stay out of this brother," he warned Birchshiver, as he stepped closer.

"She did what was right for the clan," Birchshiver said.

"No. She's *mud-blood*, remember? She can't lead! I was always there and I was ready to be deputy! Then you exiled me..."

"You tried to kill Birchshiver! What did you expect?"

"It was a misunderstanding," Sprucestrike insisted with the grin. He realized the distraction then shot forward, toward Shymask. She did

not expect it but they continued to quarrel.

Meanwhile Earthfoot headed toward any scent of kits. *Keeping them in the nursery would be a horrible move, so they must be here somewhere...* He heard quiet meows coming from the tall oak and he headed that way. When he tried to get close, two queens shot in front of him.

Earthfoot internally moaned, knowing they'd have to go too. As he began attacking, he noticed the white furred she cat was fast, so he chose the pretty one to kill. Having learned technique from Thunderstar, he but the she cat's spine and she coiled in pain. Then, he raked his claws across her side. The fierce bite to the spine had made her useless.

"I... I can't feel my legs," she whimpered to Cloudfire. Blitzfire and Bushwind were now taking on Earthfoot. Even though it was Blitzfire only fighting, Bushwind was throwing Earthfoot off with his antics.

Bushwind squealed and then rolled over. Blitzfire actually slashed the tom, while Bushwind began his interpretation of a battle.

"I'm gonna tickle you... I'm gonna tickle you," Bushwind sang with a grin. Earthfoot stopped and tilted his head.

"Dude, what I'm fox dung are you doing?"

"Distracting," Blitzfire replied as she pounced onto his back and bit onto his scruff. Earthfoot managed to throw her off, but he quickly moved onto Birchshiver. *This clan is nuts...* While Blitzfire and Bushwind celebrated their mini victory, Sprucestrike was attempting to finish Shymask. The she cat was relentless, but he knew her weakness.

"It's over Sprucestrike.." Shymask muttered as Stormchaser and her cornered him. He grinned and glanced around.

"No, it's just beginning," he retorted as he whipped around in a flash, and raked his claws across Stormchaser. The Tom fell back, and Shymask crumbled. Sprucestrike then flipped around and

batted her across the cheek. She fell to the ground in tears and he smirked wildly at her. Then he bit her harshly on the neck and prepared for the final blow that would kill her for good.

"Sprucestrike, stop," Ivysong pleaded from nearby. He glanced back his love, them to Shymask. "She'll lose a life, then we'll take her to Thunderstar. She's a former leader and province deputies aren't accounted for in the new plan."

"Very well. I'll take her back. You finish up here," Ivysong said, preparing to take Shymask back. Sprucestrike cast his brother a single glare before he helped Ivysong carry Shymask away. Though as they were leaving, Sprucestrike caught a familiar scent. *Jaggedclaw*. Thunderstar must've finished quickly. Sprucestrike told Ivysong to wait, then made his way through the trees.

When he caught Jaggedclaw in the corner of his eye, he wasted no time. He darted forward and took Jaggedclaw into a bush, where both of them were trapped uncomfortably.

"It's nothing personal, but I've been waiting moons for a she cat like Ivysong," Sprucestrike explained before he raked claws down his side. Knowing the would was good enough, he sprinted back to Ivysong, a tree length away.

Earlier in the battle, Dapplestone slipped through the back of the camp, but was noticed by her own daughter. Tinyfear bounded over to the she cat, but she wasn't in the mood.

Dapplestone pinned Tinyfear down with her pregnant weight. Her daughter squirmed under her claws but she wouldn't give in. As she looked into her daughter's eyes, she fell into a hallucination.

"Mommy... please," the face of Tulip was substituted for Tinyfear's face. Dapplestone snapped out of it and faced Tinyfear, once more.

"Mom... please," Tinyfear pleaded. Dapplestone hesitated but finally came to her senses.

"You're not Tulip," she said as she slit her throat. Once her eyes rolled back, she dropped Tinyfear and headed into the nursery.

Immediately, she was body-slammed against the den wall by Horsetail. She grunted and feebly got to his paws when he batted her belly. She gasped and fell to her paws.

"What... are you doing?!" She spat in pain. He batted her again focused on the task at hand.

"I'm inducing your pregnancy," he replied hitting her one more time. She fell to the floor and bit her lip. Sure enough, contractions were flooding her painfully.

"Why.."

"I'm not a kit murderer. But I don't have a problem with killing you," he replied quietly, handing her herbs. She refused to take them and squinted her eyes in pain.

"You're being stubborn. Just do it for the kits. Or better yet! You'll all die and we'll have less *you* in our forest.."

"You can't do that. They're Redstar's kits, too," she said with a slight smirk. Horsetail grumbled and stuffed the herbs in her mouth. She swallowed them reluctantly then continued taunting him. "You're going to die. Spiderstar is already dead. Jaggedclaw won't make it out the night, and Bushwind is probably being slaughtered as we speak.."

"Do you know why your mate hates me?" Horsetail asked curiously. "Before you were born, there was a plague of whitecough that went through the clan. I chose to save the weakest individual Sorrelfoot, who ended up dying anyway. Thunderstar hates me because I didn't save our friend first. And that's why he turned my own daughter against me. Because I would bend my paw to him. Because I stood for what I believed in. Dapplestone, I am your father.."

"LIAR! You piece of fox dung! My father was a rogue. My mother was Turtlefur... your a filthy exiled elder! Dapplestone screamed. She was beginning to deliver the kits and started to scream, naturally. The first kit was a dark red furred tabby Tom. The second was black furred tabby she cat. And the third was a dark gray tabby furred Tom.

"Take these now," Horsetail ordered shoving two leaves in her mouth. She swallowed then spat at him.

"I don't care who you are, you're still going to die, all the same," Dapplestone declared as she slashed her claw against Horsetail's belly. The old medicine cat didn't even try to dodge it and he seemed to take it calmly.

"Now we're both going to die in a few moments.."

"What do you mean..."

Horsetail kept his dying glance on the small pile of scarlet berries, in the corner of the den. Her eyes shot open in realization and she tried to cough and spit it out. He had his it between the two borage leaves and she had swallowed it unknowingly.

"Despite what you've become, I will still love you daughter. Your kits will be fine.."

"You'll die in-" At this point, the berry was finally taking its affect. She didn't have time to finish because the tremors started. She set down her head and her eyes were locked on the berries as they rolled over.

"Horsetail, are you alright?" Bushwind asked as he burst through the den. He rolled his eyes and turned to his apprentice.

"I'm dying but otherwise, in perfect!" Horsetail said sarcastically.

"I can heal you!"

"Shut up and just... get the Cloudfire. The kits can't nurse off their dead and poisoned mother.. And Bushwind, I'm going to go in a few seconds.. make sure you don't make any mistakes, but I will guide you. I'll see you again," Horsetail explained with a nod of the head. Bushwind followed his orders as always, but rushed so they would get back in time. But by the time they arrived, Horsetail had passed and the second StormClan patrol was vanishing.

"Give us her body and kits, and we'll let you live," Earthfoot demanded as the stranglers returned. Bushwind was the main

authority and didn't argue with the Tom.

Earthfoot would carry her body back, Brightfire would carry the Tom that looked like Thunderstar, but no one would carry the other two.

"I'll do it. Thunderstar will want to see me," Thornfrost interrupted, seeing the dilemma. Earthfoot however scowled and looked at her more closely.

"Why would he care for you?"

"I'm his daughter. Eldest after Vulturestar," she replied. Graystar had told her everything, and now, she wanted to meet her father. Earthfoot nodded then led the way.

Bushwind and the survivors, were left to pick up the pieces.

After the last battle of the Forest was between father and son. A strange gut feeling overcame Vulturestar, and he ran for the lake. His father would follow him and they finally met on the beach.

"So my first-born returns.."

"Of course, father. We have business to discuss," Vulturestar replied simply as he stalked over to face him.

"What business? Your demise?"

"No. I'm going to take another one of your lives, then I will disappear and you'll never see me again," Vulturestar explained throughly.

Thunderstar smirked before he charged toward his son. Vulturestar however, was on the shore and led him into the lake water. At the touch, he grimaced and glared toward his son.

"Do we really have to fight where fish dwell, or will we fight like toms?" Thunderstar challenged as Vulturestar swam deeper.

"If it means I can rid the forest of you... Yes!" Vulturestar declared and his father groaned and followed him.

Vulturestar waded into deeper water, luring his father there to. Then, he lowered into the lake and out of Thunderstar's view. Vulturestar then attacked from under and Thunderstar hissed and was thrown off balance.

Once Thunderstar was under water the visions came back. He was a kit again for a few moments. He was being drowned. *Swim! You weakling!*

Thunderstar growled and shot up, out of the water. He grabbed hold of Vulturestar's pelt and pounded him against the bottom of the lake. Vulturestar clawed and struggled with him until Thunderstar lost his footing and fell into the depths.

Vulturestar took the chance and held his father's head under for as long as he could. When Thunderstar fell still he knew it was enough. He took his father's limp body, and left it by the shore. He panted a bit before glancing around.

"Gem.. I don't know if you're watching or not, but I wanted to let you know, I'm sorry. And, tell your brother, the one I *literally* just met, that I love you both. I'm leaving for good. I wish the best."

"Thunderstar...,"

The nervousness in Airflight's voice made Thunderstar turn. He was resting in his den. He was already tired and frustrated but closer to lashing out now.

MountainClan was destroyed, and the battle was over. But the second patrol was finally retuning, but he had not seen Dapplestone yet. She had not yet come back from her personal mission in Mountainclan, which should've been hours ago. Airflight, followed distantly by Earthfoot, stepped into his den. Thunderstar sighed.

"What is it? Shouldn't you be with your fellow warriors in-,"

Airflight's expression gave him pause. It was fear like he had never seen before, but not from something the young tom had recently seen. It was apprehensive anticipation, extreme anticipation, of

something. It took a moment for Thunderstar to realize that for some reason, Airflight and Earthfoot were exchanging glances. Glances of fear.

Airflight took a deep breath, as Earthfoot explained what had occurred. "She went into labor, and there was nothing the second patrol could do. Sprucestrike was dealing with Shymask. And I was dealing with meddlesome queens. Our forces were weaker without Dapplestone. We managed to conquer them, but not before Horsetail met Dapplestone..."

Thunderstar came cold, and fearful, himself. His heart pounded, and he felt his old anxiety bubbling to the surface of his mind.

"Wh-...where?" He stuttered. "Where is Dapplestone?" Thunderstar could barely speak. He was shocked into silence. *This isn't part of the plan. I told you not to do on the patrol...*

The toms calmed down, as they realized that Thunderstar wasn't going to attack them. Something was wrong with him. The huge tom looked different. Hollow.

"Dapplestone died in labor," Earthfoot said quietly. "Her body is outside. Burial is in the morning."

That was it. It was almost as if all the moons of hardened warrior experience had left him. He couldn't even think of his mate, and her face. Dapplestone's face faded. All he could see was a gentle, juvenile white she cat, with sweet blue eyes and a kind but nervous smile. And her face, frightened but strong, as his father slit her throat.

"C-C-Colette?" Thunderstar uttered, before it was followed by a coughing fit. Airflight and Earthfoot looked at him in alarm.

"Who's Colette? Are you alright?" Airflight took a few steps back.

The hair on Thunderstar's back rose, and he gave his messengers a weak hiss, but it sent the right message. "Leave me be!"

Airflight and Earthfoot scurried out of the den, and into the camp outside. Thunderstar turned away from the den entrance, shivering

slightly.

His missing eye hurt, like a phantom limb, throbbing but unable to heal. Thunderstar knew that he should have left then, to go see his mate and offer the other warriors some kind of solace for their clan's losses, but his body wouldn't let him go. He was held like a vise, betrayed by himself.

Betrayed like his father betrayed him.. how his siblings betrayed him.. How his own mother was willing to leave him, unwanted and alone, to save her own pelt. So she could run off with her filthy Rogue parents and find other toms, and have another litter, and give no thought of the tiny kit she was leaving behind.

And now Dapplestone was gone. *She's not dead*. Thunderstar's inner voice explained. *You trained her, she's strong and lethal. She can't die*.. But another voice, was ready to combat his assurances.

She's left you like your mother left you. Nobody wants you, you filthy little half-blood bastard! The voice was Sorrelfoot's, his half-brother's, and his fathers, all like a choir of disgust, that gave him an anxiety that he hadn't had since his apprentice days. *Everybody is gone, because you aren't good enough to make them stay. Everyone will live you!*

"S-Stop!" Thunderstar hissed at himself. "I'm fine. I'm fine. I didn't need her, I don't need anybody. She's gone now. I'm free from her!" Thunderstar didn't even believe himself, but it was better than believing his father. *I won't be gone long, Thunderkit, I promise*.

"Y-You l-liar!" Thunderstar snarled at his den wall, at the roots that creeped down from the top of their, no, his home. Dapplestone was gone. *Gone*.

"Are you a fish, you little piece of fox-dung? You wanna go for a swim?"

His half-siblings's voice, nasally and laced with cruelty, caused Thunderstar to spin around, looking for the source. *Where were they?* Thunderstar would kill them, kill them again, until the Dark Forest or LightClan wouldn't know where all his pieces lay.

You should be more careful near the water, Thunderpaw. You're not a fish... Horsetail's face, younger and more tender, seemed to form itself out of the roots on the den wall. *You aren't much of a swimmer*.

As the images of Horsetail flooded his mind, he saw a scarlet red berry. Images of Dapplestone having tremors until her beautiful, her gorgeous self, fell still, and her eyes glazed over.

"You k-k-killed her..," Thunderstar whispered, his heart aching. "Why would you kill your own kin? Your daughter.. *you monster*."

Dapplestone had been his weapon, that no one could hurt because she was secretly Horsetail's blood. He had been fully confident that no harm would come to one of Horsetail's own children.

Thunderstar suddenly stopped, feeling a quiet sort of clarity. What parts of his mind that still hung to morals and logic and sense unhooked from their moorings, and drifted off into insanity, like whispers.

"Mountainclan killed you," Thunderstar told Dapplestone, the beautiful rock in his mind to which he now clung to. Then an alternate vision of Gem, his granddaughter, filled his thoughts. "No... it was the *illegitimate*, it was *her*. I can fix this. I can kill them!"

Dapplestone smiled, and turned her head, looking into the darkness, at what he could not tell. It was only a vision, but he cherished it, so.

"I will stay with you until then, my love. I will see you rein victorious. I may not live on, but our victory will.."

"There will be no victory," Thunderstar told her, his claws coming unsheathed. "There will be a storm, a powerful thundering of paws, and the only thing that will be left when I am through will be you, me.."

"Thunderstar, I forgot to mention.. We managed to save the kits, capture the CaveClan deputy, and.. we brought back Horsetail's dead body. Then we had your kits and a she cat insisting to be your

daughter. Thornfrost?" Thunderstar silenced Earthfoot with a flick of the tail, then dismissed him.

"Our Legacy.. Dapplestone. You, me and our Legacy.."

R.I.P. FEATHERSHADE

Formerly known as Em, this sister of Spiderstar, started out as a kittypet. It was easy for her, but her loyalty, talent and enthusiasm shined.

@Endermee, sorry I don't have your current username. Thank you for the time you spent with us. And thank you for Feathershade.

R.I.P. RASPYHOWL

The very first apprentice and survivor, he was prepared for the duties of being a Warrior. He was a friend, brother, mate, father, and my baby.

R.I.P. SPIDERSTAR

This leader of MountainClan was formerly the rogue, Skorge. He was feisty and protective at first, but he became known for the great friendships he made. Now, he is with his mate, Icywind.

Thegentleman06 , thank you for Spiderstar and the time you spent with us.

R.I.P. BRINEFUR

This she cat came to MountainClan searching for a better home, as she found one. She found a good part of Shadow when no one else would. These two could've been together, if things had been different.

wordweaver18 , thank you for entering and the time you spent with us. I am truly sad that Brinefur had that short of a life.

R.I.P. WOLFHEART

He was found by Feathershade in the same house where she was a kittypet. When he heard about the clans he was weary but ecstatic. Wolfheart soon found himself an apprentice in MountainClan. It wasn't long before he made a friend in his future mate, Flamespirit. We all love you and we will miss you.

R.I.P. TINYFEAR

I'm gonna cry... This little bundle of black fuzz was the runt of her litter, henceforth her name "tiny". She loved her family, friends and clan immediately and wanted to be the best warrior she could. She failed time and time again to be the best, but when she finally proved herself, she was killed by her own mother.

cocowolf12 , you've really been a great participant and friend. You've always kept tabs and provided cool plot twists. I know you didn't see Wolfheart nor Tinyfear coming, so I'm very sorry.

R.I.P. STORMCHASER

He came to MountainClan expecting the best. He immediately had a crush on Cloudfire, but found something much more by the border. Shymask and him had a close bond at the start when he saved her at the battle. They had a litter of four kits and he even planned on moving clans for her. But as most things go, the book had other things in mind.

@Katlin_WC, I kinda lost your username and you never read...
So you may not get this, but thank you for Stormchaser.

R.I.P. JAGGEDCLAW

He originated from a clan himself. His sister, Rivertail and him were some of the earliest members. Jaggedclaw wanted to settle down many times and tried to court THREE SHE CATS but failed each time. Maybe, he was meant to be a loner. We will never know.

Guild_writer , thank you so much for Jaggedclaw and Rivertail. You've been a great reader, fan and friend and I'm sorry Jaggedclaw couldn't have a lady. Trust me, he deserved one.

R.I.P. MORNINGPOPPY

Now this... Was a death far too early. This she cat came with her son and a patrol to search for the new clan. She had Twanykit with a rogue, but he didn't want them and cast her away. She was just settling into MountainClan when the threats of the clan arose. Morningpoppy sacrificed her life for the kits of MountainClan.

LeAshehPants227 , it is really unfortunate that we lost this she cat so early. We both hope the best for Twanykit and the future of the kits she saved.

R.I.P. DAPPLESTONE

Oh... Dapplestone. She was born in SkyClan, as a lesser blood because her father was unknown. She did her best to rise up, but Olivepaw would always overshadow her. She killed her sister and took her mentor, Thunderstar. Manipulated and taught to kill, she became a weapon herself, but Thunderstar wanted more for her. Their first litter, Vulturestar and Tulip, wouldn't be their last but it was definitely her favorite. She killed Redstar, Maliceflame's kits, and Horsetail making her one of the most hated villains. She died after eating a death berry, probably one of the less painful ways to die. (Bummer...)

CeRosette THANK YOU SO MUCH!!! After I heckled you about joining my cat story, you did join! She was brought into a world that she has never read about before. And you wrote tons of little sections that allowed me to publish chapters earlier. And, you were really, one of the masterminds of this story.

And...

R.I.P. HORSETAIL

Born in SkyClan, this kit had high hopes. He was named horse for his appearance, but his warrior name came from the herb he brought to SkyClan. Unexpectedly, he was friends with Thunderstar for awhile. Their friendship continued until he pulled the line and found a mate in Turtlefur. They had four kits, now we know them as Dapplestone, Sprucestrike, Birchshiver and Olivepaw. He brought about the new clans, renewed the medicine cats, and was a good mentor and friend to us all.

All of your cats that died this cursed night, will truly be remembered. I love you all.

- EpicCroft

Epilogue

"And, that's the story.."

"Wait! What! No way, Bushwind!" Cardinalkit shrieked, realizing the long long tale was over.

"Yeah! What happened to Gem? Do she hear her dad? What about Jaggedclaw! He couldn't just.. die like that!" Cloverkit rambled in shock. She had to know the answers. *The story can't be over yet!*

"I'm sorry, but that's just what's happened so far! How am I supposed to know what happens next. After all, we're in the story," Bushwind said with a grin. The two siblings exchanged glances with each other, then challenged Bushwind.

"You made that all up, didn't you?" Cloverkit accused, boldly. She dreaded the thought. *Gem and Twistedfoot? He can't make true love up!*

"Yes. We *really* live in SkyClan and Thunderstar was never evil, and everyone actually lives happily ever after.. OF COURSE ITS NOT MADE UP! If so, why would I kill off all the your favorite characters.."

"So wait! If this is all true, then, what clan are we in?" Cardinal questioned glancing around. His mother is Cloudfire so that must mean..

"MountainClan was destroyed three moons ago. Remember? The only ones who survived are the cats you have met.."

"So are daddy is really dead?"

"Yes.. I'm sorry. But hey! We didn't lose everybody! Like, Twanypaw, oh he's the best, a real hoot! And Olivepaw, my

apprentice, is pretty cool too... Not to mention the best elder you'll ever meet, Willowbreeze!" Bushwind declared as the elder walked up to them. She was getting slower, her sight was fading, but she still told great stories.

"Indeed Bushwind. Indeed," she muttered before making her way to the small prey pile.

"So what did happen? We survived, obviously. But what about the other clans?" Cloverkit asked curiously.

"Well. CaveClan and LakeClan didn't fight. And now, they're provinces of StormClan. Except they don't have much say over anything. You know, besides all our friends and kin dying, we're definitely better off," Bushwind explained with a nod. But Cardinalkit scoffed and Bonepaw overheard his statement from afar.

"We're nothing, anymore," Bonepaw said with a frown. He was sitting nearby and happened to hear the conversation.

"He's right Bushwind. We'll never be a clan again," Cloverkit said with sigh.

"Guys! Look at that prey pile," Bushwind demanded. They were cast out from their territory, so prey was dry difficult to come across. They all examined it carefully before Bonepaw turned back to him.

"It's pathetic."

"We have twice what the other clans have.. Don't worry.. OH! I forgot the last part of the story. I received a prophecy, you know! For the first time. It goes like this... *A cat with the blood of the storm and eyes like ice, shall rebel against her oppressors, and bring clarity and freedom back to the clans*.."

"Are you sure you weren't eating purple root?"

"Uh..yeah. I was probably eating purple root," he said with a shrug. Everyone moaned, hoping for a real prophecy, but Bushwind wasn't that sure. *Maybe it is real? Maybe this cat, will save us all? Well, it'll have to wait until I get some more purple root. WOO! That stuff is good.*

The end.

Credits...

Here are those who have participated...

Darktide- ScarletSage

Coldstar and Jaybird- XxTheRandomKatxX

Spiderstar- Thegentleman06

Icywind- _Russia_

Feathershade- Endermee

Skystar, Rainpool, and Shadow- TheShadeMaple

Voidstar and Zodiacpaw- MysteryHarp

Vulturestar, Dapplestone, Thunderstar, Aspenfur, Bluewisp and Bushwind- CeRosette

Frostycloud- Frostycloud

Shymask and Darkomen- GamerGirl13x

Lostpath- Coldfrost

Smoketalon- Chromeflame

Jaggedclaw, Rivertail, and Willowbreeze- Guild_Writer

Sparrowfeather, Flamespirit, and Tinyfear- cocowolf12

Spottedpelt- JinxTheRogue

Bubblefur- Irishcah

Nightjet- i_heart_music101

Blitzfire- Goldstar212

Silvershell and Foxheart- Wolfishthoughts

Fierceclaw, Hailkit- countrycow22

Hollyfall- -_-capahchinuh-_-

Echokit- sunstarrules

Shiftclaw and Vicekit-Roaring_Aragami

Firekit and Tearkit- foreverginger_14

Olivekit- Stephanie5717

Earthstripe- MidnightMoon1323

Suntail and Robinkit- Graceymc96

Shadowstar- Puh-leaze

Rustkit- StarWarsHaloFanFic

Rosejay and Timberfall- MotherxofxFandoms

Ivysong- Ivystar138

Puddlepaw- Snowythewolf445

Leopardpaw- Itroy1190

Beestorm and Cloudfire- TuftyKat

Sootfall- Scorchwing

Stormchaser- Katlin_WC

Oceanpaw and Poisonberry- TOTES-RANDOM4

Winterkit- Mel_Cookiex

Brinefur and Cherrykit- wordweaver18

Cedarlily- thankyou_not

Moonbliss- NightmareDoge

Airflight- KelvinClark

Dragonstone, Llewyn, Sharpkit- XandarianLord

Tangledkit- WhisperingWerewolf

Ashkit- CinderStarleader

Sweetbreeze, Silverfeather, and Blackkit- X_Silverfeather_X

Mistypaw and Steelkit- WildUntillTheEnd

Blackfire- SeasonSnow

Flarekit- Pikochu

Lightpaw and Burrclaw- Numies_Yum_Numies

Finchkit and Maplewood- Common_Conspiracy

Otterpaw- LizBot2

Dawnkit and Lightningpaw- TheIceWarrior

Toadkit- Wolfyfang

Dustystripe- Yamaraj

Hiddencreek- cool-of-shades

Moondust- beautifully-awkward

Marshpaw- wolf652

Hawk- desadar

Morningpoppy, Tawnykit and Hollowkit- LeAsheh227

Blazekit- LunaPup365

Nightkit- Wolfsprite7263

I love you all and the wonderful fans and cats that you are. For those cats that survived, you will be in Your legacy so stay tuned.

Your Legacy will start off 3 moons from the battle so, she cats, let me know if you got together with a Tom. I will try to approach you directly, if I really want you to be with someone.

About 20/60 of you read the whole story according to my observation of chapter comments and votes. So let's hope the 40 that didn't, someday do.

Again, thank you!
- EpicCroft